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THE HINDU

JUNE 26, 2022

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BENGALURU
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Modi and Trudeau will seek reset in ties on the sidelines of G7 summit
page 7

Pakistan opposes move to hold events linked to G-20 in J&K
page 7

Chinese President to attend Hong Kong handover celebration
page 10

Harmanpreet stars as India goes 2-0 up against Sri Lanka
page 15

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NEARBY

No pets in Cubbon Park from July 1: Department
BENGALURU
Pet lovers in the city are yet again upset with the Horticulture Department as it has decided to invoke a ban on pet animals in Cubbon Park from July 1.
BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

Sushil Mantri arrested in money laundering case
BENGALURU
The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) arrested Sushil P. Mantri, director of the Mantri Developers Pvt. Ltd., under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. The ED initiated the investigation in March 2022.
BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

Officials told to reduce traffic chaos at 10 spots
BENGALURU
Ten prominent spots, including Hebbal, Mahadevapura Outer Ring Road, Silk Board Junction, and Whitefield Road, which witness huge traffic jams, will soon see measures being taken to decongest them following Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's directions.
BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

CLASSIFIEDS ▸ PAGES 4 & 6
MAGAZINE ▸ 8 PAGES

16 rebels asked to reply to notice by tomorrow

Shiv Sena's national executive rallies behind Uddhav

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The national executive meeting of the Shiv Sena on Saturday passed six resolutions giving absolute right to Maharashtra Chief Minister and party president Uddhav Thackeray to take action against the rebels to bring the revolt within the party under control.

The national executive barred any individual or group from using the name of the party's founder, the late Bal Thackeray, after reports that the rebel MLAs would name their group as Shiv Sena (Balasaheb Thackeray).

The office of Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal on Saturday confirmed issue of disqualification notice to 16 rebel MLAs, seeking a reply within 48 hours. But the Shinde group tried to move a no-confidence motion against Mr. Zirwal, though the Assembly is not in session. It was rejected as the notice was from an unknown e-mail id.

The rebels remained firm, saying they wanted to stay with the Sena, but the party should ally with the BJP and not the Congress or the Nationalist Congress Party.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 7

State of flux: Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray leaving the Sena Bhavan in Mumbai after a meeting. • PTI

Ban orders in Mumbai as MLAs' offices attacked

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

The political crisis in Maharashtra is now spilling on to the streets. On Saturday, Shiv Sena workers vandalised the offices of a few rebel MLAs in Maharashtra.

Considering the tensions and possible aggressive reaction from Sena workers, the Mumbai Police on Saturday imposed Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in the city, banning gatherings of five or more people at one location.

The 38 rebel MLAs in Guwahati wrote to Assam's Chief Minister, Home Minister and the Director General of Police on Saturday for police protection for their families. The letter signed by the 38 MLAs said the security provided to them at their homes and to their families as per protocol had been unlawfully withdrawn, as an act of revenge.

Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse-Patil rejected the charge that their security had been removed.

Teesta, former IPS officer detained

Action comes a day after SC order in 2002 riots case

THE HINDU BUREAU
AHMEDABAD/MUMBAI

The Ahmedabad Police on Saturday arrested former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer and whistle-blower R.B. Sreekumar and detained Mumbai-based social activist Teesta Setalvad, after filing a first information report (FIR) accusing them of forgery and criminal conspiracy and other offences under the Indian Penal Code. Dismissed and jailed IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt is also named in the FIR.

The police crackdown came a day after the Supreme Court upheld the clean chit given to then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi and others in the 2002 riots case, endorsing the report of the Special Investigation Team (SIT), which had filed a closure report against Mr. Modi and others.

The court dismissed the allegations of a "larger conspiracy" behind the communal riots in 2002 and rejected the petition filed by Zakia Jafri, widow of former Congress MP Ehsan Jafri, who was killed along with 69 others in the Gulberg Society massacre in Ahmedabad in 2002.

The 10-page FIR provides details of alleged forgery and cites observations from the Supreme Court verdict. "At the end of the day, it appears to us that a coalesced effort of the disgruntled officials of the State of Gujarat along with others was to create sensation by making revelations which were false to their own knowledge," the court noted.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 7

New turn: Activist Teesta Setalvad being detained by the Gujarat Police in Mumbai on Saturday. • PTI

Fares sting, no 'low-cost' flight up in the skies

But no slowdown in passenger numbers

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

With the rise in aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices, domestic and international airfares have witnessed a surge by up to 50% in the past few months, according to data from online portals.

A ticket for New Delhi to Mumbai booked on Saturday for a flight within the next 15 days will cost a traveller ₹8,576 as compared with ₹5,675 in January this year – an increase of 51%. Similarly, a flight ticket for Bengaluru to New Delhi within the same booking window will cost ₹9,674, which is a 38% increase from ₹6,984 five months ago. And, a Mumbai to Varanasi air ticket is up by 47% to ₹8,565 as compared to ₹5,810 in January.

Data from travel portal ixigo shows that airfares were higher by 27% to 50% on various domestic routes even in the month of May. "Fares right now are the highest we have seen on the domestic side post-COVID," says Manan Bajoria, vice-president, growth marketing & analytics, ixigo. Yet, airlines in May flew the highest number of passengers, 1.2 crore, since the pandemic. International flights which returned to their pre-COVID-19 levels from March 27 are costlier as compared with 2019 rates.

A Mumbai-New York one-way fare in May 2022 was ₹70,296, a 53% rise from ₹33,265 in May 2019. "However, despite rising airfares, interest in international travel this summer is strong due to pent-up demand with international travel resuming fully after two years. South east Asia, Middle East & Europe are the top summer destinations this year," says Mr. Bajoria.

'No other go'

Recently, SpiceJet's chairman and managing director Ajay Singh said airlines were left with no choice but to immediately raise fares, and that a minimum of 10-15% increase was required to ensure sustainable operations. He attributed this to a 120% increase in ATF prices since June 2021 as well as the weakening rupee, as a significant chunk of airline costs is dollar-denominated.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 7

Troubled waters

The economic crisis in Sri Lanka is forcing families to risk a boat ride through choppy seas to Tamil Nadu

TEXT AND IMAGES BY L. BALACHANDAR

On April 10, a group of 10 Sri Lankans, including two children and three women, were left high and dry by Sri Lankan fishermen on an islet near Arichalmunai. Shivering and surrounded by lapping waves in the twilight hours, they waited for the day to break and then they were rescued by the local fishermen and the police.

On June 16, seven Sri Lankans, including four children, began a perilous journey to escape the economic crisis besieging the Island nation. These people were lucky for early next morning, they landed in Dhanushkodi.

From here, they were picked up by the police, and on completion of preliminary enquiries, they found a roof over their head at the refugee camp in Mandapam.

So far, 90 people have taken the same choppy sea route to reach India in small batches from March 22. For all these families, mostly from northern Jaffna and Mannar district of Sri Lanka, the spiralling prices of essential commodities was the trigger that forced them to risk their lives. Even to make this illegal journey, they had to give a few lakhs of rupees to boatmen who helped them escape.

For most Sri Lankan Tamils, leading a secure and peaceful life has always been an elusive dream. Right from the 1980s to 2009, there has been waves of migration as thousands fled the country during the civil war. From 2002, when a lengthy ceasefire began, to February 2022, 17,933 Sri Lankan refugees came voluntarily to India.

But from 2012, India has not granted the status of refugee to those arriving from Sri Lanka. As a result, these migrants are now housed in 113 camps in Tamil Nadu and are dependent on the dole being provided by the State government. In August 2021, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin increased the monthly cash dole to the head of each family living in rehabilitation camps from ₹1,000 to ₹1,500. Along with this monetary aid, they have been provided basic needs.

A police official said that, during inquiry, most of these migrants revealed that before leaving Sri Lanka, they had sold their immoveable and moveable properties with the intention of remaining in Tamil Nadu permanently.

A dream that they hope to realise without the refugee tag.

Escaping penury: Ten Sri Lankan Tamils landed on an islet near Arichalmunai near Dhanushkodi in Tamil Nadu to escape from the economic crisis in Sri Lanka.

Land ahoy: The marine police picked up three families by boat from the islet and brought them to the mainland.

Firm ground: On safe territory in India.

On the move: A mother and son waiting for a vehicle to pick them up at the Arichalmunai police booth.

READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE
www.thehindu.com

Spotlight

Long form articles from our regional editions

- The NIMZ bedlam: the Telangana government is seeking investments from several companies, much to the chagrin of farmers losing prime land bit.ly/3btBUMo

Online exclusives

Explainer

- Assam's annual tryst with devastating floods bit.ly/3nigNzs
- Why is Israel set to hold a fifth national election in three years? bit.ly/39VCbYf

Podcast

- An inter-generational podcast of women of different age groups engaged in difficult but important conversations. The final episode of this five-part series features a doctor sharing her experience of sexual harassment at the workplace. This series from *The Hindu* is brought to you by BSCPL Infrastructure Ltd.

- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text to do the same.*

Scam unearthed

BENGALURU

The city police arrested Fasoyin Adeyinka, Alfred Adoni, African nationals, and Moni Kumar from Tripura for allegedly scamming people online through mobile phones. The police recovered four fake debit cards of bank accounts opened using fake documents, four SIM cards and three mobile phones.

Educational opportunities aplenty: Minister

Huge turnout at The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling event

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

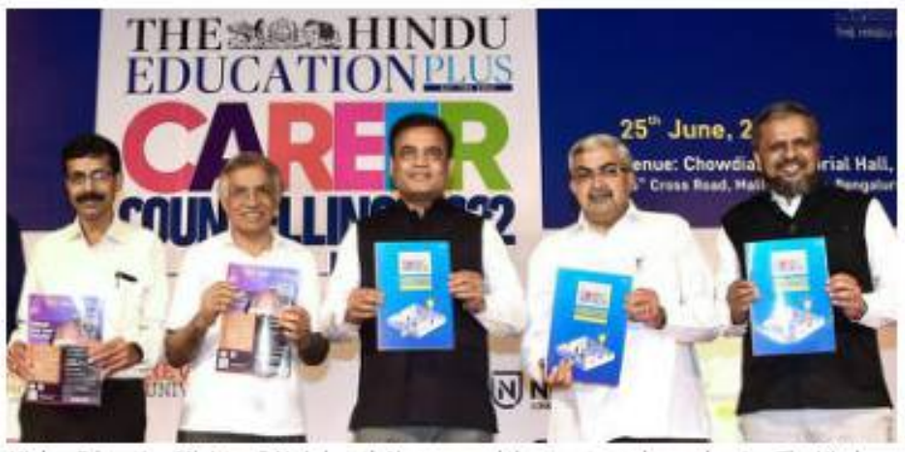
Except for medical courses, students can get seats in whichever branch of study they want in Karnataka as the State is full of educational opportunities, said Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, participating in the 20th edition of The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling 2022 on Saturday at Chowdaiah Memorial Hall here.

The event saw huge turnout with close to 1,000 students and parents at the event that offered guidance from experts in fields ranging from medicine to engineering to general education and even UPSC and CET.

"The gross enrolment in higher education in the State has increased by 6% in three years - to 34% in the higher education sector," said the Minister. Listing out the measures taken by the government to improve the sector, he said, "We are competing with the entire world, not with the neighbouring States."

With around 17 higher education institutions, including medical and engineering colleges, available under a single roof, students and parents were seen getting information about the colleges, various courses, fee structure, infrastructure, and placement.

S. Kumar, executive secretary of COMEDK, who spoke on medicine, said in all, for Karnataka, they are 8,895 medical seats available this year. "On the basis of NEET rank, students will be given seats," he said, adding that Karnataka has the best of industries and establishments that provide a "wonderful ecosystem" for internships too.



Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan and the guest speakers releasing The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling 2022 handbook in Bengaluru on Saturday; (below) participants at the event. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

K.R. Venugopal, former Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University, spoke about how Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) are subjects of the future. "AI, ML, Computer Science, engineering, information science, and engineering will provide millions of jobs," he said.

Ameen E-Mudassar, career counsellor and CEO of CIGMA, talked about general education and said students must learn multiple skills, upgrade themselves, and try to acquire online knowledge. "Don't choose your career influenced by others. Don't get tempted by current trends and don't finalise before you clarify. At the end your graduation, have at least five internships," he said.

Students wishing to pursue professional courses got first hand guidance on the CET admission process from S. Ravi, principal at Government Girls PU College and former PRO of KEA. "Once CET rank is announced by the Karnataka Examination Authority, the schedule for the verification of documents will be announced. Students can arrange documents well before this," he explained.

Those wishing to be in the civil services got the lowdown on the whys and hows from M.N. Anucheth, SP, CID.

He said: "Civil service is not a job, it is a service. Before taking the CSE, you must ask yourself why you want to become a civil servant. Don't do it out parental pressure, power, or prestige. Youngsters today are intellectually far superior than us. Your IQ is really good, but EQ is a little low. You need to be able to handle those pressures. Find your talent and be humane and service oriented," he advised the students.

> The event was good because it gave information about where I could get a seat with what rank. I want to go for engineering because I took the science stream, but I am still figuring out the specifics. I am preparing for CET right now.
>
> SHRAVYA S. KEDILAYA, class XII student

> I did not have any idea about my next step. From the event, I gained a lot of information. I am planning to prepare for CS engineering from NITE Meenakshi College.
>
> ANIRUDHA, Seshadripuram College

> The event was very insightful and the speeches given by the guests were inspiring. I am preparing for CET and may go to M.S. Ramaiah University. Before the event, I did not have any insights about the medical field and the exams for the same.
>
> MONICA, student, Narayana College

> My son was planning to take up engineering after class XII, so we came here to explore more options. The event gave us an overall idea about different careers and that is quite helpful. I had a list of colleges earlier, but now I am aware of some more because of the stalls.
>
> MARIAM SOPHIA, parent

(Clockwise from top left) S. Kumar, K.R. Venugopal, S. Ravi, Ameen E-Mudassar, and M.N. Anucheth speaking at The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling event in Bengaluru on Saturday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

Australian national robbed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 38-year-old Australian national, CEO of a company, was assaulted and robbed of his valuables by a gang of four, who had offered to help him file a police complaint against the staff of a hotel who allegedly assaulted him over payment in Govindarajapura on Thursday.

The victim filed a complaint with the police, who tracked down one of the accused, identified as Syed Imran, and arrested him on Saturday. The victim, Aso Hamzehei, who was heading to work at Manyata Tech Park, was staying at Fortune Hotel since May 23. In his complaint, he said he returned to the hotel late night after work when the staff confronted him and demanded that the dues be paid.

Mr. Hamzehei told them that he would make the payment online, but the staff insisted on cash as there was an issue with the online payment earlier, he said. Heated arguments ensued, following which Mr. Hamzehei was asked to vacate the room. In the melee, the staff assaulted him, he alleged.

He said hearing the commotion, three men staying in the adjacent room came out and offered to help him and take him to the police station. The accused took Mr. Hamzehei on a scooter with three bags, stopped at an isolated place, where they assaulted him and robbed two bags, two mobile phones, a wallet containing credit cards, cash of ₹4,000, and keys at knife point. He later went to the K.G. Halli police station and filed a complaint.

The Hindu EP Career Counselling in Tumakuru, Bidar today

Event will help students take the right decisions after getting guidance

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The 20th edition of The Hindu EducationPlus Career Counselling 2022 Karnataka will be held at 10 locations in nine cities in June and July.

The event will cover educational topics like CET, COMEDK, NEET, general education (offbeat courses), Law, Pure Science, Arts, Science & Commerce, Management, PGDM, Engineering & Medicine.

The event sets a benchmark in educational and professional guidance. It acts as a platform to connect students and parents with speakers and educational institutions. The event also helps students to take the right decisions after getting the necessary counselling and guidance.

Platinum Sponsor for the event are: Presidency University, Bengaluru, Ramaiah University, Bengaluru, and Reva University, Bengaluru. The Gold Sponsors are Cambridge Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, Nitte Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, and Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumakuru. Silver Sponsors for the event are ACS College of Engineering, Bengaluru; K. S. Group of Institutions, Bengaluru; Rajarajeswari College of Engineering, Bengaluru; Soundarya Institute of Management and Science, Bengaluru; Universal Group of Institutions, Bengaluru, Atria Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, and TAPMI, a unit of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Bengaluru. Other associate Sponsors are: CMR University, Bengaluru, Karnataka State Open Univeristy, Mysuru; Shaheen Group of Institutions, Bidar, and Sri Sairam College of Engineering, Bengaluru.

Timings for registration is between 8.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. The event will be held between 9.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. For details, contact: 9739273958 / 9448160126 / 9448871815. Entry is free. First 300 walk-ins will get a surprise gift.

All participating students will get free English proficiency test, STEP.

The schedule

Place	Date	Venue	Address
Tumakuru	June 26	Birla Auditorium	Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumakuru
Bidar	June 26	Gyansudha Vidyalaya	Gyansudha Vidyalaya, Mamankeri campus, Bidar
Bengaluru South	July 2	Mangala Mantapa Auditorium	NMKRV College for Women campus 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru
Hubballi	July 2	K.L.E. Society's Biotechnology Auditorium	B.V.B. College of Engineering & Technology Campus, Vidyanagar,Hubballi
Ballari	July 3	BPSC Pre-University College	BPSC Pre-University College, Anantapur Road, Ballari
Mysuru	July 3	Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering	P.B. No.206, Gokulam 3rd Stage, Mysuru
Davangere	July 3	Bapuji Business School	Bapuji MBA College , Lake View Campus, S.S. Layout, Davangere

To pre-register for the event and STEP test, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/3N2Sy2F

Money laundering case: Sushil Mantri held

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) arrested Sushil P. Mantri, director of the Mantri Developers Pvt. Ltd., under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

The ED initiated the money laundering investigation in March 2022 on the basis of an FIR registered in Subramanyapura police station, Bengaluru in 2020 against the company and its directors and many other employees.

Many home buyers had filed complaints with the police as well as with the ED alleging that the accused entities/persons are involved in money laundering and have induced prospective buyers with rosily painted schemes, showing misleading brochures, falsification of delivery time lines and window dressing, and collected more than ₹1,000 crore as advance money from thousands of buyers. However, they had not been given possession of their flats even after passing of seven to 10 years, they alleged.

During investigation, it was also noticed that the company offered various "Ponzi-like schemes" as buyback plan and advance money was collected for the flats/homes. In some cases, the company had not refunded the amount to the buyers even after clear direction of RERA, a release said.

The ED said the amount collected from the buyers by the company, which were meant for construction of the projects, had been diverted for personal use by the management of the company or for other fraudulent purposes, and hence the project was stalled.

The ED release also said currently, the group has total outstanding loans of approximately ₹5,000 crore from various financial institutions, out of which approximately ₹1,000 crore was overdue and some of the loan had been termed as NPA. It was also revealed that the company had "cross collateralised" its assets to different financial institutions to take multiple loans on the same assets, the release added.

Sushil was produced before the court and taken into ED custody for 10 days, while further probe is underway.

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स), कल्याणी
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), KALYANI
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के तत्त्वावधान में एक संविधिक निकाय)
(A Statutory Body under the Aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GOI)
राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग-34, बसन्तपुर, सागुना, कल्याणी, ज़िला-नदिया, पश्चिम बंगाल-741245
NH-34 Connector, Basantapur, Saguna, Kalyani, District Nadia, West Bengal 741245

No. 720/E-12011/6/21-(FAC) Date: 24.06.2022

RECRUITMENT OF FACULTY POSTS (GROUP-A) IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AT AIIMS, KALYANI ON DIRECT RECRUITMENT BASIS-2022

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Kalyani, an Institute of National Importance is one of the new upcoming AIIMS and apex healthcare Institute under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) has been established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, with the aim of correcting regional imbalance in quality tertiary level healthcare in the country, and attaining self-sufficiency in graduate, postgraduate and higher medical education and training.

Online applications from Indian citizens/persons registered as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder under Section 7A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 as permissible under the applicable Act/Rules are invited for the following faculty posts on **DIRECT RECRUITMENT BASIS** in Various Departments in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalyani (West-Bengal).

Sl. No.	Departments	Professor		Additional Professor		Associate Professor		Assistant Professor	
		Category	Total	Category	Total	Category	Total	Category	Total
1	Anaesthesia	1-OBC	1	1-UR;, 1-OBC	2	1-OBC	1	1-UR;, 1-SC	2
2	Anatomy					1-EWS	1		
3	Biochemistry			1-EWS	1				
4	Burn & Plastic Surgery	1-EWS	1					1-EWS	1
5	Cardiology	1-OBC	1					1-UR	1
6	Dermatology			1-UR	1	1-OBC	1	1-OBC	1
7	Endocrinology					1-UR	1		
8	ENT			1-OBC	1	1-OBC	1		
9	Forensic Medicine and Toxicology	1-OBC	1	1-SC	1			1-OBC	1
10	Gastroenterology	1-SC	1						
11	General Medicine	1-ST	1			1-SC;, 1-UR	2	1-OBC	1
12	General Surgery	1-SC	1	1-UR	1	1-ST;, 1-OBC;, 1-UR	3	1-OBC	1
13	Medical Oncology/ Haematology	1-OBC	1	1-UR	1	1-EWS	1	1-OBC	1
14	Microbiology	1-UR	1	1-UR;, 1-OBC	2	1-SC	1		
15	Neonatology	1-UR	1	1-UR	1	1-OBC	1		
16	Nephrology	1-SC	1					1-UR	1
17	Neurology	1-OBC	1					1-ST	1
18	Nuclear Medicine							1-OBC	1
19	Obstetrics and Gynaecology	1-EWS	1					1-OBC	1
20	Ophthalmology	1-UR	1			2-UR	2		
21	Orthopaedics	1-UR	1	1-SC	1	1-OBC	1	1-EWS	1
22	Paediatric Surgery	1-OBC	1	1-OBC	1			1-UR	1
23	Paediatrics	1-SC	1	1-EWS	1			1-SC	1
24	Pathology			1-UR;, 1-ST	2			1-OBC;, 1-UR	2
25	Pharmacology	1-UR	1					1-UR	1
26	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	1-ST	1			1-UR	1		
27	Physiology			1-OBC	1			1-SC;, 1-OBC	2
28	Psychiatry	1-OBC	1						
29	Pulmonary Medicine	1-UR	1			1-SC	1	1-SC	1
30	Radiology	1-EWS	1	1-SC	1	1-UR	1	1-ST;, 1-EWS	2
31	Radio Therapy	1-SC	1						
32	Surgical Gastroenterology							1-OBC	1
33	Surgical Oncology	1-UR	1					1-SC	1
34	Translusion Medicine & Blood Bank	1-OBC	1	1-OBC	1				
	Total	**7-UR; 5-SC; 3-EWS; 8-OBC; 2-ST**	**25**	**7-UR;, 6-OBC; 3-SC;, 1-ST ; 2-EWS**	**19**	**7-UR;, 6-OBC; 3-SC;, 1-ST; 2-EWS**	**19**	**6-UR;, 10-OBC; 5-SC;, 2-ST; 3-EWS**	**26**

For details of advertisement including educational qualifications, age and eligibility criteria etc., kindly visit the Institute's website **http://www.aiimskalyani.edu.in.**

Last date of Online application.	**30 days** from the date of publication of the advertisement in Employment News/ Rojgar Samachar.
Cut-off Date for determining the Qualification & Experience and upper age limit.	
Last date of receipt of the hard copies of Online Applications Form along with relevant documents as mentioned in the advertisement at AIIMS, Kalyani.	**15 days** from the last date of receipt of online application.

The On-line of application will be made available on AIIMS, Kalyani official website i.e. **https://aiimskalyani.edu.in.** The link for submission of online applications in respect of above said posts along with other relevant information will be activated on the date of advertisement on Employment News/ Rojgar Samachar or earlier (as posted on the website).

Sd/-
Executive Director
AIIMS Kalyani

Checking out: An official questions the Sri Lankan Tamils at the Mandapam marine police station, after which they were sent to the Mandapam refugee camp for Sri Lankans.

Food on the table: The Mandapam marine police hosting the Sri Lankan Tamils.

Hard times: A man and a woman stare at an uncertain future.

Making do: Sri Lankan Tamils who arrive in Rameswaram are provided with essential items at the rehabilitation camp.

New country, new beginnings: Sri Lankan Tamils after questioning by Central and State officials.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JUN. 26	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:49
RISE 03:33	SET 16:38
MONDAY, JUN. 27	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:49
RISE 04:16	SET 17:30
TUESDAY, JUN. 28	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:49
RISE 05:03	SET 18:21

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	24
Mysuru	30	21
Bengaluru	27	20

Bengaluru Today
30°C A dry weather to prevail. Day will bee slight warm but humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm but humid. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Officials told to reduce traffic chaos at 10 prominent spots

Measures include synchronisation of traffic signals and removing obstacles

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Ten prominent spots, including Hebbal, Mahadevapura Outer Ring Road, Silk Board Junction, and Whitefield Road, which witness huge traffic jams, will soon see measures being taken to decongest them following Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's directions. The measures would include synchronisation of traffic signals and removing of obstacles for smooth flow of traffic.

Silk Board junction is one among the 10 spots where steps will be taken to improve traffic congestion. • FILE PHOTO

The Chief Minister, on Saturday, chaired a meeting to discuss traffic decongestion plans with officials of various agencies, including BBMP, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Urban Development, and the police. This follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the city recently, during which he announced that measures will be taken to improve connectivity in the capital and to make Bengaluru free from traffic jams.

Mr. Bommai directed officials to begin work on traffic signal synchronisation to maintain the traffic flow and decongest the major junctions, which is a major concern among motorists. Mr. Bommai also directed the city police commissioner to depute a senior police officer of the rank of DCP to supervise the progress of the projects at their jurisdictional level. He also earmarked ₹48 crore for the signal synchronisation.

Getting details of the condition of roads across the city, Mr. Bommai also directed BBMP officials to fill potholes and repair the block spots at the earliest. The roads connecting national highways (NH) should be have a free flow of traffic, he said, and asked the traffic police to work to improve the conditions of the roads connecting NHs and the city entry points. He also issued orders to take up immediate repair works at about 50 spots which witness flooding whenever it rains.

Among the other directions he has given are the installation of enforcement cameras at every strategic location, arterial, sub arterial and high density roads should be cleared of any sort of encroachments, and the police should enforce the rules to ensure the roads and footpaths should be encroachment free.

The Chief Minister also asked BBMP, BWSSB, BMRCL, and Bescom to work in coordination under the overall supervision of the Additional Chief Secretaries of Urban Development and Home departments to formulate measures for easing traffic congestion in the city. DGP Praveen Sood was also asked to increase the strength of the traffic police personnel.

No pets in Cubbon Park from July 1: Horticulture Dept.

Animal lovers ask why not impose fine instead of a ban

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Pet lovers in the city are yet again upset with the Horticulture Department as it has decided to invoke a ban on pet animals in Cubbon Park from July 1. The tussle between the department and pet lovers who come to the park has been going on for almost five years now as a previously imposed ban had to be revoked by the department following major backlash and protests.

Now, as around 250 walkers in the park have submitted a written complaint about the pet problem, the department has considered the ban.

Volunteers have started a petition opposing the ban. • FILE PHOTO

A senior official of the Horticulture department said that the walkers complained that many people let their dogs run unleashed within the park. "Without leashes, the walkers say that certain dogs just jump upon them or attack them. They added that dog poop is found at random places as the pet parents do not pick it up. For now, we have decided to put up a prohibition board at the park from July 1. We will monitor the feedback we get, and then have a meeting with all the stakeholders of Cubbon Park and also environmentalists. We will then work out a solution," the official said.

At the same time, pet lovers and animal volunteers led by the Cubbon Dog Park volunteers have started a petition opposing the ban. Some of them are of the opinion that for the mistakes of a certain number of people, all pets and pet lovers should not be punished by the department. Some of them also questioned why the Horticulture Department has not imposed a fixed penalty for these offences instead of totally banning animals from the park.

Priya Chetty Rajagopal, animal rights activist, said the decision has come as a shock. "However, if this issue is only because of unleashed dogs and unpicked poop, I hope pet parents step up in a civic manner" she said.

First exclusive park for specially-abled children opens

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Wahima, mother of 12-year-old Jakir Abedin, had a smile on her face as she watched her child play. "I used to take him to a general park where he used to fall and get hurt, and none of the parks had special activities for specially-abled children. We are very happy that now he can play without getting hurt," she said.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurated the State's first disabled-friendly park at Bal Bhavan in the city on Saturday.

On Saturday, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurated the State's first disabled-friendly park in Jawaharlal Bal Bhavan (JBB), Cubbon Park, built for children with disabilities by Mindtree and Bal Bhavan Society. Built at a cost of ₹3 crore under the guidance of health and child development experts, the park provides a safe, inclusive, and physiotherapeutic place where children with multiple forms of special abilities can play uninhibited by their mobility aids or the risk of accidents, officials said.

Designed in the shape of a turtle, the park consists of different zones for a wide range of physical, mental, therapeutic, and touch and feel activities. The park has a specially designed sand table for children on wheelchairs and a special swing. Tactile pathways make it easier for visually-challenged children to navigate their way around the park. To mitigate injuries from falls, all playing surfaces are made of a synthetic, non-toxic, and skid-proof rubber.

Christina Rachel, a class 6 child, said: "There was no place for us to go out and enjoy, as most of the parks were not suited for me to walk with my stretcher. Here, the pathways are comfortable."

Mr. Gehlot said it is the social and moral imperative to develop inclusive and accessible playgrounds for differently-abled children. "Special children and their parents struggle with numerous obstacles, biases, and misconceptions in their effort to lead full and capable lives. Instead of adding to their problems, parks must become a part of the solution by enabling children with disabilities to gain from free and unstructured play just like other children," he said.

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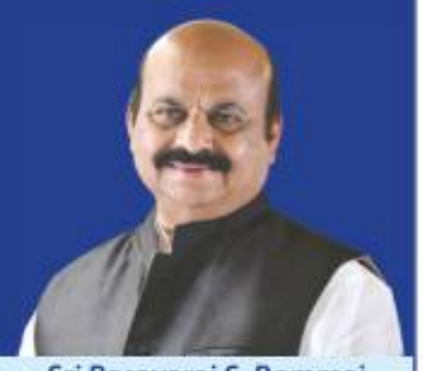
Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

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Helpline Mobile Number: **+91 9482300400**

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Commissioner
Department of Social Welfare

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COSMOPOLITAN

DOCTOR, PURSUING DM. AIIMS Delhi, 28/160, Tamil, Hindu, Mudaliar, Makam, seeks suitable groom, Masters/PhD in any field. Contact parents 9880016674, 9449821952.

DOCTOR

SMU PARENTS seeks Allopathic Doctor for daughter. 30 yrs Slim,Fair MBBS,M.S., Mob: 8056198771

TAMIL VISWAKARMA Govt Doctor Bride MD (GM) 31/167 Fair Vishagam Seeks Doctor / Engineer / Govt. Officer Bridegroom Ct : 94459 64285

HINDU SC-PR, 26yrs/ 5.6', Poosam, Kadagam, MBBS, Govt. Medical Officer, Parents Govt seeks MBBS/MD/MS, ongoing PG Groom preferably Govt. below 30 years. 94446 53587/97881 54437

SAIVA CHETTIAR /MBBS/ 28/5ft 7inch/ Makaram/ Uthiradam/ TN govt employed/ undergoing PG seeks match pref. Doctor / Saiva pillai/ mudaliyar/ chettiar contact: 9443695053

DOCTOR PARENTS invite Post Graduate Doctor Grooms for their Fair, Beautiful girl M.S(O.G) working in Govt Hospital at Chennai, belongs to Pillai Community born on 1992. Contact: 98431 44420

DOCTOR Girl Wrking in Govt hospital 5.1,born-July 1991, seeks groom from medical field pref MD/MS, Mutharaiyar or BC/MBC caste Ct:7401529319

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CALICUT BASED Thiyya girl, 26, Corporate Lawyer (Mumbai), LLB from National law school, parents Gazetted officers, Caste no bar. 9633046765.

NAIR GIRL 28 /154 BE, Revathy, Chennai setld – employed (2-Dosham), seeks from Nair Family. 9500012855

ALLIANCE INVITED from executives/ PQ/well estd. matches preferably working in the Govt sector for Vishwakarma Girl (C)/MTech/28/ 165cm/makam. Father – Rtd Class 1 officer. Cont:9535031849

SUITABLE Alliance sought for a 29years old Nair Girl working as Senior Associate in a MNC B'lore earning 17Lak PA. Horoscope compatibility not considered essential. Please send a WhatsApp message to 8870651177 for more details.

Educated Employed Ezhava Girl 28/165 Pooruruttathi Sudhajathakom living in Thiruvananthapuram seeks Alliance from Professionals with Good Personality - Respond to 9447047679.

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THE HINDU
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WANTED USA Groom for Intel Employed Girl, Vanniyakula Kshatriya, Fair 26/Anusham ECE-CEG, MS-Texas A&M. Father Business, Chennai. 9884071390

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CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03-04-1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private). Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact 9841182514

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RC NADAR 29 B.E., SWE 14 LPA, seeks RC Nadar B.E Bride Groom with good job Contact:7708469824

HINDU SC/AD 28yrs/160cm BE., ECE Chennai seeks Professionally qualified groom below 32 yrs. Ct : 9710843632

MUDALIAR 33/ 152 PG Doctor Thiruvathirai seeks PG Doctors/ Business family/ Highly qualified groom between 33–36 yrs. CNB. Ct: 9884202884

CHETTIAR– CNB 31/170 fair btf B.Tech, PGDM– IIM– Calcutta/ MNC 40L. Req equally edu Groom Ct: 8300665039

VK KSHATRIYA Hindu Chennai CA girl 30/5ft 1inch expects groom from Chennai. Preferably CA. Caste no bar 9500100848/9840200907

HINDU NADAR 27, MBBS, Bharani Mesham, Suddha Jathagam, Seeks Good looking Doctor. Ct:9965252880.

THANJAVUR SAIVAPILLAI 26/165 BE, Civil, Wheatish, Makaram seeks employed groom contact: 6380810427

SUPREME RICH Hindu Nadar 28, B.E.,Industrialist (Only Daughter) Fair,Seeks Groom . Ct: 7305491610

HINDU PR 29/160 BE, MS in US, employed in US H1B visa seeks suitable groom from US/UK/Canada or willing to settle in US/UK/Canada. Ct: 9945223333

SC, AD(KONGU) 30/151, BE (PSG–CBE) SBI, Hastham, upper middle class, own house, properties seeks suitable groom, cast no bar–CT: 9443702720

HINDU VELLALA Pillai 37 163 Visakam Fair MBA Working in Qatar Willing to Relocate to any Place seeks well qualified Professional Groom rasnan1948@gmail.com Ct: 81220 59734

FAIR 34/164 well educated & settled girl decent family seeks IAS IPS IRS IFS/ Defence Commissioned Officers/ Doctors/ Engrs & decent Hindu family, Caste No Bar. Ct: 7358378843

PILLAI/MUDALIAR, 33, Good looking, MBBS, MD Final yr, Well Settled family seeks Groom 33-35 years, Engineer/ Business/ Doctor. Ct: 9345855735

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INTER CASTE Parents seek for daughter 27/156 SWE employed Chennai, from suitable Hindu groom. 90032 87101

HINDU NADAR Sister Girls, age 28 / 23, Ht 167/167cms, M.E. Asst Prof / B.E (I.T), Upper middle class. Seeks Upper middle class, equally qualified brother boys of age below 30 in job or business. Marriage both at a stage. Contact: 96265 15511

WIDOW 34YRS B.Tech, well settled good looking with 6yr old child. Needs life partner who is progressive and broad minded. Age below 40yrs caste no bar 80727 50829 / 98846 95374

GAVARA, 30/159cm, M.E., Divorce without encumbrance, Parents-Central Govt. seeks qualified Groom from middle/ affluent family.Ct: 9489352752

MUDALIAR AVITTAM 26 155 B.E. fair Non–IT Bangalore 6.6 Lacs p.a seeks from Chennai/Bangalore 9840143908

TAMIL

HINDU/SC.AD, SIMMAM/MAGAM(26/5'2") MCA, ITA @TCS, 6.40L/p.a. Same Caste Groom from Chennai. 9840365908

HINDU, VANIYA Chettiyar Widow (2 Female Child Age 10& 6) 34yrs,5.1 Feet, B.Com, Worked as Clerk in S. Rly, Chennai. Seeks any BC/MBC Groom from Chennai. 9444452870/ 9962997996

MUDALIAR; 26/160, Fair & Beautiful, B.E, MBA (USA), Data Analyst, MNC, USA, Elite Family, Seeks Groom Abroad/ India – 8925019776

VANIYA CHETTIYAR Aswini Mesam 28/ 163 MBBS, MD final year,Pulmonology,seeks Doctor/IPS/IAS. Sub cast no bar.Ct: sendhu94@gmail.com 8148895304

MUDALIAR 24 /170 Pooram BA PGDIB Ch seeks Affluent Business Profile in Chennai Ct Geetham 9884858014

HINDU NADAR BE/MBA 30/170cm 100000 Income Seeks Suitable Groom KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

ASST. PROF. Tuluva Vellal Mudaliar Good looking Girl 34 Uthirattathy, Meenam, Ph.D(Physics), Family Seeks Alliance from First and Unmarried Bachelor Bridegroom Aged 34–36 Yrs, Employed, Caste no bar. Contact: After 7 PM: 7550245659

HASTHAM 34/154 fair MCA Upper midl Clas Seeks Mudaliar / pillai professionally Qualified Groom 8220757159

VELLALA, Pooram 36yrs Ht:163cm Weight 62Kg, Scientist (PhD) Working in IISC Bangalore, Seeks Suitable groom. Contact: 9442485544

NADAR 29YRS, Uthradam, M.A., B.Ed., Remarriage seeks suitable Employed Groom preferably Hindu / Christian. Ct: 88256 51440

MUDALIAR 24/163 Fair,Very Beautiful, BDS–Doing,Business Family, 30Cr Property, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

LOOKING FOR Bridegroom for the girl studying MS in US aged 23. End time message believer. Ct: 8939250457

27, FAIR, B.Tech, M. S. in US, working in Chennai, Affluent, seeks settledgroom CNB. 9489935653

MUDHALIYAR 25/M.B.B.S., Own schools& Colleges Chennai, (Caste no Bar) Richfamily seeks Groom: 7305491610

37 YRS Iyer girl divorcee, no kids, seeks well educated working groom age gap upto 5 yrs, clean habits, same community, except koundinya gotra, Chennai only! Ct: 9940332928

Catholic Adidravida Bride M.TECH (CSE), 24 yrs | 154 cm, SOFTWARE ENGINEER in CAPEGEMINI [Chennai]. Parents seek suitable groom from SOFTWARE PROFESSIONALS. Call @ 9999143474

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Ct: 98404 80334, 89390 12419

Saiva Pillai, UK Doctor 27/180 Slim Fair Revathy seeks Tamil boy working in UK below 30 years of age from reputed family
Ct: 94864-89438
rcmp2021@gmail.com

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AGAMUDAYA THEVAR 40/165 MBA working USA Divorcee No kids, Seeks suitable well Employed Groom below age 45. CT: 93633 33297.

HINDU VANNIYAR Girl 25/155 M.Sc, B.Ed, Anusham, Viruchigam, Wheatish seeks Educated Groom. 9940678478

HINDU SC PR Kongu 1984 MBBS DCH Doctor, working in Govt Hospital, seeks suitable groom. Ct:9443680973

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

TELUGU SC Male groom, 29, 175 cm, handsome, B.Tech and Masters, from well to do educated family, working in U.K. , seeks educated beautiful bride between the age 23–27. Caste or language no bar. Christians can also apply. No brokers. Send bio, photo to raagaswara07@gmail.com.

KONGU VELLALAR Gounder 35yrs BE. MNC Bangalore, 13 LPA, UnMarried, seeks suitable Educated Bride from same caste - 9886572314

MUDALIYAR BOY MS Engineer in Sweden.180/76 from affluent cosmopolitan family. Uthiradam 36 caste no bar. Ct 9884187197

RC Anglo-Indian 35/160 B.Tech. SW Engr in reputed Multi-national company seeks suitable Bride. Caste & Denomination no Bar. Ct: 9841462791

Middleclass widower 63yrs, need life partner,without any encumbrance in Chennai.8105073838

DOCTOR

37 YRS Fair Urdu Sunni Muslim MS MCh Ortho Surgeon Chennai Divorced Seeking MD/MS Doctor Bride Ct: jatahmed33@gmail.com

DOCTOR MD Radiology 35 years Hindu, Tamil , SC Pondicherry seeks Doctor Girl.Contact.7708756395

DOCTOR MD RADIOLOGY 28/173 Fair Tamil Udaiyar Rich Chennai seeks MD Doctor bride 9445122662 rlingam1981@gmail.com

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 30 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

WANTED HINDU Educated Employed Malayalee Bride for MBA Gold Medalist Groom 33yrs/178cms Own Business. Caste no Bar Ph: 9500042949/ 7397311660

WANTED BRIDE for Nambiar youth, 27 Years, fair, 177cm, Post graduate Engineer from IIT, Employed as Post Graduate Engineer in Qualcomm at Bangalore. Middle class family of Kannur District Kerala, mother is employed in State Govt and father is a Group A officer of central govt. In search of suitable Girls (similarly qualified/well employed at Bangalore/well employed elsewhere but transferable to Bangalore) from Nambiar/ Poduval/ Menon/ Nair/ similar communities, having age below 25. Interested parents please contact parents of bridegroom with Horoscopic details to 2023krishna9191@gmail.com. Whatsapp number may please be given for further communication

HINDU NAIR, 36/169, Uthradam, Handsome, Govt.job, Divorcee without issue seeks beautiful Bride from (Nair/ Saiva Vellalar/ Vellalar) Poor/ Middle Class Family. Ct : 8807525679

✔ **CASTE NO** bar. 34/Magam/175cm/ 10LPA wrkg in Chennai, intercaste M–Nair, F–Mudaliar, owns 2BHK flat, seeks suitable match Ph: 7397477667

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TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN NADAR GROUP 1, 27yrs/ 175, fair well settled family kanyakumari dist. Ct: 9443792181

Christian Vellalar 31/183, Fair BE & BSc., Hotel Management, Asst.Manager in Reputed Hotel. Seeks working bride in any BC. Ph: 9444342703

THULUVA NAIYAKAR Pooradam 39/154 Wheatish DME & Ac Fridge Mech. Own House/Job, Seeks bride. Caste No Bar. Cont: 9940630864

PILLAI MUDALIYAR Punarpoosam 35, 175 CM MCA Software MNC 3L / PM Bangalore Seeks Graduate Bride CT : 9176245009,8143351235

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA Groom 34yrs B.A. 178cm Handsome, Own Business. Seeks Fair, Homely Bride. 8939140160

HINDU (AD), MBBS – 29 Fair – Pooradam, Kumbam (Seeks alliance) Ct:9940622977.

CHETTIAR (CNB) 29/175cm M.Tech MBA (UK) fair, Seeks BE/Medical professional Bride. Ct: 6381980158.

PROFESSIONAL WORKING in Chennai seeks graduate/post graduate woman aged bet. 45–50 years widow & divorcee. Caste religion no bar. 86673 87588

MUDALIAR, DIVORCE, 34 M.Tech, 14Lacs P.A,178cm, Smartseeks Suitable Bride,CNB Ct.8778514465/ 7200866346

AGAMUDAYAR, 29/172, Pooradam, B.E, Fair, SWE, 20 L pa seeks suitable Bride preferably SWE/ Doctor. Ct: 85080 99103

HINDU PILLAI 52/160cm Agriculture, Seeks Bride (CNB),CT:9788881674.

HINDU TAMIL, 1984 Born, Revathi, Groom From Rich Business family, Madurai, Seeks Good looking Bride, from South India. CNB. smjmduad@yahoo.com

IYENGAR 44/170 vadoclam, punarpoosam, working in MNC 15k/PM Seeks suitable bride Iyer/Iyengar 9940589443

Saiva Pillai 26/ 180 M Tech MNC Bangalore / Well Educated settled Parents seek Suitable Educated Employed Bride. Contact: 9442649298.

CNB, NADAR, 1980/165, M.A.B.L., HC, Advocate, Rich only son seeks Dr, Engg, Employed Bride. 94888 88819

CHETTIYAR, 24MANAI Telugu, MBA, 46, 5.4ft, young looking divorcee/ no kids, worked with all major Telecom companies as senior manager, now owns mid size internet solutions Pvt Ltd. company at Madurai with TRAI's Cat–C license, 30lacs p.a., own house, seeks bride below 42, unmarried, divorcee,widow, Caste no bar, Mob: 6379257390

HINDU DEVENDIRA kula vellalar M.E., 28/167 Asst. Engg. in PWD seeks suitable bride8248195168, 8667380725

MUDALIAR: 29/178, Handsome, B.E, MS (USA), Process Eng, MNC, USA, 100000$ PA, Affluent Family, Seeks Bride Abroad / India – 7305810258

IYER BOY, Bharadwaja Gothram, star Kettai, 32, 6.1 Ft, M.Tech, Puducherry Govt UDC, 9 lacs per annum, own house, Flat, Preference Graduate girl, Employment not must, Subsect no bar, No expectations Ct: 9443887454, 9789445577

TAMIL, 56 yrs Healthy, well settled, officers, Coimbatore Seeks independent well settled broadmaindedLady above 42 as soulmate & companion ct: 7397087032 mducbe18@gmail.com

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL, MS USA, 30 Years 185 cm. Currently working in Germany as a Senior Logistics Manager. Employed prior in U.S.A for four years and two years in Dubai. Well Settled Family. Star Hastham & Backward Community. Seeks well Educated, Hindu Bride (Caste No Bar) for their only Son. Mobile 9840041041

WANTED A fair looking graduate bride aged between 37 & 40 with 5.1/2 height for a 47 year old leading Dental Surgeon with a briliant practice. No dowry required contact ph. 8754508825 no broker please

VADAKALAI NAITHRUVAKASHYAPAM, Hastham–4, May 1978, 6'1", BA(Hindi),BE,MS,(PhD),Software Architect-Consultant–Online educator, Ilanagar Madabusi Paundarigapuram – Ahobila Mutt, Income: 12 LPA, Seeks Bride – handicap no bar.Contact: K.Srinivasan,Ph: 9003082186, URLs: https://github.com/Brihaspathi, https://acadpdrafts.readthedocs.io and https://neuronrain–documentation.readthedocs.io, email:ka.shrinivaasan@gmail.com

MUDALIYAR BOY Bharani 31yrs 175cm M.S Employed in Singapore Seeks Qualified Bride 9884504829 / 9500068279.

MUDALIAR,CHENNAI B.E Fair 1985 Well Settled, Any Degree Emp / Un-Employ Decent Family. Ct: 8610518808

LOOKING FOR an alliance for Rahul, age 35. Preferably and a homely, traditional yet modern Iyengar girl from Bangalore or Mumbai, field of work being Journalism and sports broadcasting. Boy is a consultant based out of Bangalore. Ph 9880031664

IIT62Handsome Mudaliar Boy born in Nov 91 Wkg Top MNC in Hyderabad Salary 50-55 lacs seeks Doctor /Engineer 5 4' Contact: 7382620365

CASTENOBAR, BC 37/170 Never Married Govt job in chennai looking well settled Marital status – any whatsapp 8760996098

ARIYA VAISHYAR, Age 40/ 178cm, work MNC @ Chennai, Decent salary, CNB, No Expectation. Ct: 7567993558

HINDU NADAR, remarriage, 30, B.E, PGDM, 6.2 ,wheatish brown, business man, chennai, expecting good looking girl with traditional family values within 29 years rich family, culture, same caste & religion. 9444061899.

Vanniyar Poosam 28 / 173 B.E Tech Asst. TNHB Chennai. IT/Govt Employed Girl 94866 48659.

HINDU INTERCASTE, parents only son handsome 31/177 cm, M.Tech working MNC bangalore income16 lpa seeks fair good looking employed bride from reputed educated family. Ct: 8300762360, 9443210290

NATTU GOUNDER, 32/177 BE MBA, in IT Chennai Company as Senior Test Engineer, 10.5L PA. Seeks Suitable Bride from Nattu / Vellala Gounder with Sevvai, Raghu & Kethu. 9566505735

MUDALIAR HINDU Groom, First Marriage, age 44, HW Engineer, BE – ECE, B'lore, 9886493369/9740900969

DKV 36/160 BE SWE CTC 18 Pooradam Dhanush wellsettled seeks bride SWE/Engineering moves to Germany in 2 months Caste Nobar Ct 94433 66333

HINDU SOZHIYA Vellalar, Pillai, Fair, Good looking, 40yrs, Rishabam/ Rohini, MCA, Software Engineer, Chennai. Ct: 9444126423

MUDALIAR 26/167, Handsome, MBBS, Own Hospital, 50.Lac.PA, Business Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

MUDALIAR 29/180, Handsome, B.E, Business Family, 800.Cr. Family Net Worth, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

REDDY 36Y Veg B.Tech IT PVT Job seeks good family Girl Caste No Bar Contact: 9629476232

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA 35/180 M.S(UK)Design Engineer employed @ Chengalpet seeks suitable Bride same community.9486291986, 9442910057.

ALLIANCE INVITED for 41yr old bachelor of clean habits CA, employed in Bangalore, Iyer, Haritha gothram from qualified girls from decent family Ct: 9916353313 / 6362305857

MD (CLINICAL) Marathi Brahmin Boy 1990 5'10" Chennai Based Seeks Tamil Telugu Marathi Doctor Girl MD/MS(Clinical) & also State/ Central Govt Doctor's.Ct:9968287797/ 9968287792

BRAHMIN IYER VADULAM Uthiram Nov 1977 BSc (MCA) MNC, IT 24Lakh PA Seeks unmarried Brahmin Girl 9841071359

✔ **IYER Vadama** Garga Ayilyam-2 1973 Sep 168cm S/w USA ,boy cming June, seeks bride.9444915698,email: rukmani46@yahoo.com

BRAHMIN IYER 33 B.E (Mech) working in Mumbai, drawing 14 Lakhs per annum, Pooram 1st Padam (as per Vakia Panjangam Magham 4th padam) Kaundinya Gothram Father Brahacharanam Mother Vadama only Son Affluent Family, Own House Seeks Decent Employed Girl.Subsect No Bar. 9445005392 /9444865392

IYER, VADAMAL, Garga, Mrigasheersham, DOB: 29.06.1992, 178 cm, Fair,Working in L&T Infotech as a Specialist, 16 Lakhs/Annum, in Chennai. Only son of aleading medical practitioner. Affluent family. Expectation: Subsect No Bar. Looking fora graduate Iyer girl. Employment not a must. Contact: 9442438778

IYER, 41 Years, Self employed Chartered Accountant earns 25lakhs per year. Right leg slightly short. He can walk and drive vehicle normally. Need Suitable Bride. Call 9994934568

IYER, VADAMA Athreya Thiruvathiri, 58 yrs, Self Employment Chennai, Unmarried Healthy DEE 40K/pm. Seeks Unmarried/ Widow, Broad Minded Brahmin or Vegetarian without any Expectation Good Family below 50yrs. Ct: 9884846176

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94444 51066
86082 62057

TAMIL

Iyer, Aailyam, Moudgalya Gothram, 25 years, 5.3",
Degree in Mass Communications, planning to do Masters, Presently Working in a Advertising Agency in Bengaluru with Income of Rs. 18 lacs per annum Seeks Suitable Educated Broad Minded Brahmin Bride.
Subsect No Bar
email:
nimishamba22@gmail.com

CENTRAL GOVT officer, Chennai 56yrs Hindu widower with 13yrs old daughter seeks suitable life partner, Caste, Community No Bar. Spinster, Divorcee, Widow without encumbrace preferred. Contact: 91235 30616

MUDALIAR 29/168, Kettai BE Mech Rs.55000 PM, own house CBE. Seeks Bride. Ct: 9597772439/ 8489272439.

TELUGU

RICH MILL Owners, Kamma Naidu27, B.Tech., own Spinning Mills/Windmills Solar Firms etc., (Madurai) seeks Rich Bride 7200067015

GAVARA NAIDU, 38/180, Uthiradam, Maharam, B.E.,M.S(Engg), Chief Engr, MNC Chennai, 15L PA, First Marriage seeks Educated Bride. Ct:9487272897

BALIJA 37/170 Moolam B.Com business 50K/pm own house, Chennai seeks educated good family bride 9840696452

KAPU BOY, 6 feet 1 inch 28 yrs, B.Tech from IIT Kanpur,Group A gazetted officer in Govt of India seeks suitable alliance Contact: +91 9453045661

CHETTIYAR KETTAI/ Viruchagam 21.11.79 MBA– Software 35000pm 1st Marriage seeks Bride Any Caste. 9383002003

TELUGU BRAHMIN 6000 NIYOGI Koundiya–34 yrs, 172 cms BE– Asst Mgr (5.5 LPA) Seeks suitable bride Subsect No Bar. Ct: 9620999580

63 years old but looks like 55 yrs Brahmin Specialist Doctor earning 2lakhs 70000 rupees per month seeks Brides from Brahmin, Kamma, Arya vysya, kshatria, Padmasaali, Reddy communities. Contact 7877987128

URDU

ALLIANCE INVITED for our son, 28 yrs, 6ft, very fair, BBM Graduate, working in MNC Bangalore (6LPA), from an educated, religious, Urdu speaking decent family, from Karnataka, Andhra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu. Contact- 8088293949, 8861750596.

SM FOR my son, Muslim 39/ 5ft 6inch/ Masters / IT Sr. Software Consultant in Leading MNC. Contact: 8951722097

37 YRS Fair Urdu Sunni Muslim MS MCh Ortho Surgeon Chennai Divorced Seeking MD/MS Doctor Bride Ct: jatahmed33@gmail.com

SUNNI MUSLIM parents invite alliance for their son MBBS, MD (General Medicine), DM (Cardiology), presently working as Associate Cardiologist in a reputed hospital, Bangalore. Looking for a beautiful girl from a respectable family who has completed / in final year MD / MS in clinical subjects. Contact & whatsApp : 9845614231

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MUSLIM DOCTOR / Engg & Business People Ct:Alamgir Matrimony 8056304286

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BRAHMIN, 35, 170 cms, Psychiatrist, MD/MS. Lives in Dubai. Father is a Professional. Mother is a Homemaker. Looking for a match from any Brahmin community, ready to relocate to Dubai. Contact: 6366448346

SAIVA PILLAI, 29, 170 cms, Doctor, MD/MS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Doctor. Looking for a match from Pillai community and well settled family. Contact: 6366448345

VANNIA KULA KSHATRIYAR, 32, 173 cms, Entrepreneur, Bachelors in Engineering. Lives in Dubai. Family is affluent with good net worth. Looking for a compatible and well educated match from the same community. Contact: 6366448343

NAIDU, 33, 178 cms, Professional, MBA, Working in Canada. Father is a Businessman. Family is settled in Mumbai. Looking for a like minded match from Naidu or Reddy community and ready to relocate to Canada. Contact: 6366448346

REDDY TAMIL 26, 183 cms, Professional, BS & MS. Lives in USA. Father is a Professional. Looking for a match from the same community and from a well settled family in the USA or Canada. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 27, 160 cms, Freelance Costume Designer, Bachelors in Design. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Professional. Mother is a Homemaker. Family lives in Chennai. Looking for a like minded match from any Brahmin community. Contact: 6366448346

VELLALAR KARKATHAR, 28, 157 cms, Doctor, MD/MS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Doctor. Looking for an MD/MS Doctor match from same community and well settled family in India. Contact: 6366448344

NADAR, 22, 163 cms, Entrepreneur, Masters in Management. Lives in Sivakasi. Father is a Businessman. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible and well educated match. Contact: 6366448343

INTER CASTE, 26, 173 cms, Not Working, Pursuing MS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a well educated match from USA/UK/Canada. Contact: 6366448346

NAIDU/CASTE NO BAR, 22, 160 cms, Not Working, MSc. Lives in USA. Father is a Businessman. Looking for match from a well settled family in the USA. Contact: 6366448345

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DOCTOR

BRIDE WANTED
MBBS DOCTOR, Naidu, Age 27 years, Parents Doctors own Hospital in Coimbatore. Well to do family. Seeks a suitable Fair Doctor girl from an educated family
Contact:
98422 72255

MALAYALAM

TRIVANDRUM BASED romancatholic boy 38/175 social worker in Canada PR holder invited suitable alliance. Ph: 9349350333

MUSLIM BOY, 30 Years, B.Tech, 5'7", Working in IT, Upper middle class family in Ernakulam. Seeking alliance from a compatible family. 9895972251.

TAMIL

HINDU AGAMUDAYAR, 28/148, B.E, M.S, Design Engr. Germany seeks well educated Groom working at Germany - same caste. Ct: 9442883070

Saiva Pillai Girl 24/170 Ayilyam Cbe, fair B.Tech SWE MNC B'Lore, seeks Groom. senthilnathanb76@gmail.com

Doctor Ophthalmologist, 30 Years, SC seeks Professional preference Doctor Chennai 8073775493, 9441074743.

TELUGU

NAIDU DIVORCEE No issues 1977 Slim, MNC Transfer Job. Caste no bar. Wanted Employed Groom. 9443344936

24 MANAI Telugu Chetty BE.MBA 25/ 162/55 working in pvt bank chennai. 9790919406 gplvasudevan@yahoo.com

NRI

✔ **HINDU NADAR,** IT prof, USA, Mar-1986 born, 6'1", Magaram, Uthradam, Teetotaler, Divorced No encumbrance. Seeks bride from USA only. Caste no bar. +91 89394 15081+1 651 356 9254

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 34yrs/178cms, MBBS with dip in Cardiology Private service good looking lives in Nagercoil, Divorcee seeks same caste qualified Bride/Divorcee above 28yrs. Ct: 90039 83230.

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar, Tirunelveli Dist well settled MS willing to live in USA 25yrs seeks bride from community, any professional 9382266099

VANNIYAKULAKSHATRIYA 32 BE Mech Viruchigam Kettai Own IT Infrastructure Services well Setteled affluent family, Chennai seeks employed good family background bride. 6380923434

TELUGU

Naidu Girl 30/158 with H1B Visa in USA from Educated Family Seek Alliance from Naidu Boy (Balija/ Kapu/ others) with PR/ H1B Visa Working in USA. Contact +91 8985039128.

BALIJA NAIDU 23/B.Tech famousKalyana Mahal (Chennai) Star HotelsElite family seeks groom. 9087604894

URDU

SEEKING PRACTICING SMU with no Dargah practices, never-married bridegroom, 36 yrs or below / 170cm or above, BE / BTech / MCA, IT professional, working abroad or in Tamil Nadu / Bangalore for my employed, MCA, MPhil educated, never-married, pious, upright by nature, 1987 born / 165cm good-looking daughter. Please write to : 90037 31213 or farhath_abbas@yahoo.com

TAMIL

PENSIONER 75, Expects Healthy Pious Life Partner around 70 Brahmin / Non Brahmin Woman Ct: 79048 21292

58, DECENT, Well Settled Seeking Issuless Widow / Divorcee. Contact : 7401489892

5'8 Mudaliar Boy Born in Feb 90 well settled working in Central Govt Rural Bank (RRB) near Hyderabad salary 8 lacs PA seeks Bride 5'2 above contact no 9866229004

HINDU AGAMUDAYA Mudaliyar.AC Raghavan,28/170cm, Fair,Viruchigam, Anusam, M.Tech, Pvt 50000/– Seeks same Cast Bride. Ct:9150727763, 8778669911

SC AD DIVORCEE 31 BE Canara Bank Manager 90,000/month seeks suitable bride. 9962310155/205

AGAMUDAIYAR MUDALIYAR, 44, Poosam, Simam, B.E., (E&C) 1 Lac Per Month, First Marriage, Own House, Seeks Suitable Alliance. Caste No Bar. No Brokers. Ct: 9600011225

URDU

SMU GIRL 27/165 B.Tech Team Lead MNC Chennai Seeks Suitable Alliance Contact: 9442141520 / kbegum6823@gmail.com

SMU PARENTS Seeks Alliance PG Doctor, CA Groom for Daughter 27, Slim, Fair MS, Ophthal Working 9444024991

✔ **SMU, Practicing** Muslim hijabi girl, 25/168, Doctor working in UK, origin Andhra Pradesh, born & brought up in Saudi seeks a professional bridegroom residing or willing to relocate to UK, must be a practicing muslim. 8500630745 (WhatsApp).

MBBS 25 / 175 / VFair / slim / religious family seeks from Chennai MBBS & above below 28 yrs Mob: 9342928472.

MUSLIM Urudu, 27yrs BE, LLM seeks Master degree, well Emplyd in TN, age 28-31, Height 5.8 - 6ft. Ct:9940641555

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Mysuru student tops CLAT in SC category

All the top rank holders who spoke to *The Hindu* said they will be joining NLSIU, Bengaluru

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Toppers all: Gnanankith J.A., Sanjana S. Rao, Shivaraman Raghuraman, Aumita Mishra, and Prem Vinod Parwani

Following in the footsteps of his brother, Gnanankith J.A., a student from Mysuru, set out with a goal to secure a seat in the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) this year. With his grit and hard work, he ended up securing the first rank in the country under the Scheduled Caste category in the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT), conducted by the Consortium of National Law Universities.

"I had not expected to get a rank as high as this. I truly have no words to express how I am feeling. I am very thankful to my mother who supported me in every step of the way and my brother (who studies at NLU Jodhpur) for his guidance. Although I had not started preparing for the exam in a serious manner until December, after that, my teachers at the coaching institute helped me greatly," Gnanankith said.

He added that he has chosen to pursue law as it will help him contribute to society in an informed manner. "I will be more aware of rights and laws. Besides, if I decide to write UPSC exams, studying law would be very helpful."

First choice

The CLAT results were announced on Friday evening and the toppers are elated that their months of hard work has finally borne fruit. All the top rank holders who spoke to *The Hindu* said they would be joining the NLSIU, Bengaluru, as it had always been their first choice. Interestingly, many of them had first considered an engineering career before switching their focus to law.

Several other students from the State secured top rankings this year, including Sanjana S. Rao who secured an All India Ranking (AIR) of 7, and Shivaraman Raghuraman who secured an AIR of 12.

Sanjana and Shivaraman both believe that consistency is key to clearing CLAT and they kept up with current affairs and general knowledge on a daily basis. "I used to study four to five hours a day. I never pulled any all-nighters. Unlike other entrance exams, here you do not have much to study, so you just have to keep practising and take mock tests," Shivaraman said.

Aumita Mishra (AIR 14) and Prem Vinod Parwani (AIR 16), on the other hand, believed in a strict schedule and specific goals. "I used to spend 20 minutes practising math, one hour on leisure reading to improvise the speed of reading and read the newspaper every day for general knowledge," said Aumita. Prem said he spent a lot of time on general knowledge reading and group studies along with his peers. Other than these students, Anirudh Raghav from the city has secured an AIR of 24.

MLAs, across parties, look for ways to delay BBMP elections

They do not want 'diversions' ahead of Assembly polls

K.V. ADITYA BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU

A file photo of the BBMP council meeting. Former councillors want the civic polls to be held in time.

With the draft of the newly delimited 243 wards notified earlier this week, Bengaluru appears to have moved one step closer to holding the civic polls. However, MLAs cutting across party lines, are keen to see that civic polls are not held before the 2023 Assembly elections. They are reportedly strategising ways to derail the poll calendar despite the Supreme Court setting a deadline of eight weeks from May 20, sources said.

Bengaluru has 28 Assembly seats, 12% of the 224-strong Karnataka Legislative Assembly.

> **We are already in the Assembly election mode and holding civic polls now will distract us for three months.**
> A SENIOR CONGRESS MLA

> **MLAs want to control Bengaluru and are not ready to share power with councillors. We will fight to hold the elections in time.**
> A FORMER BJP COUNCILLOR

Legal challenge

Congress MLAs, who have come down heavily on the delimitation draft, are mulling over challenging it legally and if this is done, it is likely to delay the polls. On Saturday, Janata Dal (Secular) leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy also raised strong objections to the manner in which delimitation was done.

Two former Congress councillors approached the High Court of Karnataka seeking timely elections, which eventually led to the recent Supreme Court directive. The two former councillors were supported by former councillors cutting across party lines, including BJP, sources said. However, what former councillors are seeking is in stark contrast to what MLAs want. MLAs, cutting across party lines, do not want to go for civic polls now, just months before the Assembly elections, sources said.

"We are already in the Assembly election mode and holding civic polls now will distract us for three months. It demands resources ahead of the Assembly polls and creates its own set of local political problems for the MLAs. For each ward, there are more than two or three aspirants and giving anyone the ticket now will antagonise other aspirants, adversely impacting my Assembly election preparations," explained a senior Congress MLA. "We had demanded that the civic polls be held in time after the previous council's term was over in September 2020. The BJP delayed it for nearly two years and now is the wrong time to hold them," he added.

Fear of dissidence

A senior Bengaluru BJP MLA said none of the MLAs, irrespective of the party, is ready to go for the civic polls. "Civic polls will brew dissidence within the party and hit incumbent MLAs more than those challenging them. It will also command huge resources. None of us are ready for this exercise now," he said. The ruling BJP recently suffered setbacks in urban local body polls and bypolls and had a below par performance in the Legislative Council polls, making party leaders wary of the civic polls months before the Assembly elections.

However, former councillors are hopeful that the apex court direction will force the parties and MLAs to hold elections. "MLAs want to string along all BBMP council ticket aspirants, promising them ticket and want them to work for their Assembly election. Moreover, MLAs want to control Bengaluru and are not ready to share power with councillors. We will fight to hold the elections in time," said a former BJP councillor.

Three chosen for Kempe Gowda International Award

Kempe Gowda's birth anniversary to be celebrated at Vidhana Soudha tomorrow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

S.M. Krishna, N.R. Narayana Murthy, and Prakash Padukone

The Karnataka government has selected the former Chief Minister S.M. Krishna, Infosys founder N.R. Narayana Murthy, and former Indian badminton player Prakash Padukone for the Kempe Gowda International Award, instituted in honour of Kempe Gowda, founder of Bengaluru.

Minister for Higher Education C.N. Ashwath Narayan, who is also vice-president of the Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda Heritage Area Development Authority, announced that an international award would be presented to three achievers every year starting this year in the name of Kempe Gowda.

The award carries a purse ₹5 lakh and a plaque each. All three personalities chosen for the award this year have contributed to the growth of Bengaluru city, the Minister said. Dr. Narayan on Saturday called on Mr. Krishna at the latter's residence and requested him to accept the award.

The government would celebrate Kempe Gowda's birth anniversary at the Vidhana Soudha on Monday in a grand manner and present the award. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai would preside over the function.

The government had constituted a committee headed by Start-up Vision Group head Prashanth Prakash to nominate candidates for the award. Chairman of Manipal Global Education and businessman T.V. Mohandas Pai, Vivekananda Youth Movement founder R. Balasubramaniam, and retired IAS officer M.K. Shankarlinge Gowda are members of the committee. Kempe Gowda Heritage Area Development Authority Commissioner R. Vinaydeep is member-secretary of the committee.

The Minister said that places such as Savandurga and Huliyurudurga, which have historical relevance in relation to Kempe Gowda's regime, would be developed on priority. Dr. Narayan said on the 513st birth anniversary of Kempe Gowda, a decision had been taken to renovate and conserve the historical fort built by him.

KSRTC driver praised

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Sanjay, driver/conductor of a Karnataka State Road Corporation (KSRTC) bus, while on duty on Kyalanur-Kolar route on June 24, found a bag containing ₹3.42 lakh belonging to a passenger. The bag was subsequently returned to the passenger, Syed Pasha, after verifying his details in the presence of Giri Gowda, assistant traffic superintendent. Mr. Pasha had lost the bag while travelling.

KSRTC managing director V. Anbukkumar congratulated Mr. Sanjay, for his honest service and added that such staff are the backbone and role model of the organisation, said a release.

Official conned

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The East division cybercrime police are on the lookout for a man who befriended the Senior Executive Assistant, Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd., and made away with ₹1.25 lakh by offering to send a gift.

The victim, Shylaja A.S., filed a complaint with the cybercrime police on Wednesday stating that the accused befriended her online by introducing himself as Micheal on June 13 and offered to send her gifts. Two days later, the victim got a call from an unidentified man claiming that he is from the Customs Department and there is a gift in her name. The man asked her to pay the "customs charges", GST, and transportation charges and made her transfer ₹1.25 lakh through online payment platforms. The fraud came to light when the victim did not receive the parcel as promised and tried to call the number, which was not reachable.

Forest Dept. officials asked to stay in forests for 15 days in a month

It will boost the morale of other dept. personnel: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Basavaraj Bommai

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday instructed Forest Department officials from the rank of Principal Secretary to District Forest Officers to move out of their offices and stay in forests for 15 days in a month.

The Chief Minister was speaking at a function to celebrate the golden jubilee of the Karnataka State Forest Development Corporation Ltd. headed by Tara Anuradha.

"Senior officials sit rooted in Bengaluru. You are not coming out of your offices. Go to the forests, stay there for 15 days in a month. It will boost the morale of other personnel of the department. It will send the message that the senior officials are engaged in protecting the forests," Mr. Bommai instructed officials at the event.

Mr. Bommai asked officials to work more vigorously to improve the forest cover in the State from the present 23% to at least 30% over the next five years. He suggested a change in the objectives of the corporation. "There is no need to focus on profitmaking, the focus should be more on extending the forest cover. We need not grow eucalyptus for paper manufacturing. Stop planting eucalyptus and acacia trees which are not conducive to our ecological balance. Think about planting alternative species of plants and trees," he said.

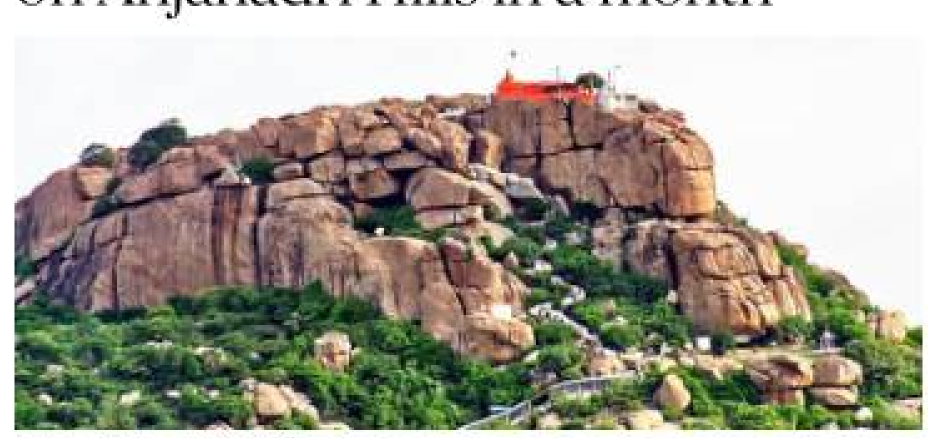
For the first time in the country, the State Budget this year had an exclusive Ecological Budget segment which seeks to offset the ecological damage and about ₹100 crore had been set aside, he said. The State government is ready to grant an additional ₹100 crore if the allocated money was utilised effectively, Mr. Bommai said.

Sandal trees

A special scheme has been formulated to encourage farmers to cultivate sandal trees. It should enable the farmers to boost their income, Mr. Bommai said, and asked the officials to simplify the regulations for sandal cultivation. He also emphasised the need for greater thrust on agro forestry.

Stressing the importance of preserving the biodiversity in the Western Ghats and increasing the green cover in the State, Mr. Bommai instructed the officials to prepare a vision document on forest development for the next 50 years.

Bommai tells officials to start work on Anjanadri Hills in a month



A view of Anjanadri Hills at Hampi. • R. KRISHNA KUMAR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has instructed officials to complete the land acquisition process and start the work within a month for comprehensive development of Anjanadri Hills at Kishkinda in Koppal district.

The instructions were issued at a meeting chaired by Mr. Bommai to review the implementation of Anjanadri Hills Comprehensive Development Project. About 60 acres of land is required for the project, of which about 58 acres is private land. The Chief Minister asked the Deputy Commissioner of Koppal district to acquire the land through direct negotiation with the farmers or through the KIADB land acquisition process.

In the first phase of the project, connecting roads to Anjanadri should be developed. Alternative roads too should be identified and developed, he said. The Chief Minister wanted the officials to widen the State highway from the national highway to Gangavati.

He instructed the officials to prepare the detailed project report and develop parking and other amenities for the pilgrims at the foothills.

Ropeway

Referring to the proposal for building a 430-metre ropeway for the Anjanadri Hills, Mr. Bommai instructed the Tourism Department to complete the tender process for the works within two months.

"I will visit Anjanadri Hills before July 15 to inspect the progress of the works," Mr. Bommai said.

BEL signs MoU with DI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) signed an MoU with Defense Initiatives (DI), Belarus, and Defense Initiatives Aero Pvt. Ltd., India, a subsidiary of DI Belarus, for supply of Airborne Defense Suite (ADS) for the helicopters of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The cooperation between these companies is also aimed at exploring various business opportunities for India and global markets for ADS, said BEL in a statement on Friday.

State should consider tax rationalisation on premium liquor products, urges apex body

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The International Spirits & Wines Association of India (ISWAI), the apex body of the premium AlcoBev sector, has strongly urged the Karnataka government to consider the rationalisation of additional excise duty on premium products in order to generate revenues from the local consumption of quality premium brands.

The current taxation structure in the State has resulted in India-Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) consumption being skewed towards the cheap segment due to the substantial differences in MRP between the cheap and the premium AlcoBev products where cheaper brands are far cheaper, and the premium brands are far costlier than in other States, as per the ISWAI.

Karnataka is one of the largest AlcoBev-consuming States in India. However, the overall excise revenue generation is not in line with the consumption as even States which have lower consumption are generating comparatively higher revenues, according to the apex body.

Underlining the need for tax rationalisation that would lead to a moderation of consumer prices, Nita Kapoor, CEO, ISWAI said, "Karnataka is a perfect model State for premiumisation because of its rapid urbanisation, rising disposable incomes, and a cosmopolitan, diverse young educated working population. Despite these favourable conditions, premium alcohol products have seen a consistent decline in consumption in the last 4-5 years."

This was primarily because the State has the highest tax rates and the ISWAI had been in constant discussions with the excise team and shared various options that lead to improving the premium segment share in the industry and also improving the State excise revenue collections from this segment, she added. Ms. Kapoor further said, "Yet another pain point is the obsolete slab structuring which was last expanded six years ago and needs a revision."

Suresh Menon, secretary-general, ISWAI, said, "The MRP variations on premium products, between Karnataka and other Sates, are significant. Also, the taxes paid on our members' products in the State are so high when compared with prices in Maharashtra, Delhi, West Bengal, Odisha, and Telangana. Therefore, consumers in Karnataka are forced to pay an exorbitant price for their preferred brands or look for alternate sources outside the State."

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Yagachi Project Division, Belur. **PHONE: 08177-222294**

Short term Tender Notification No.10/2022-23, Dated: 23.06.2022 (Through e-procurement portal

The Executive Engineer, CNNL,Yagachi Project Division, Belur-573115 Hassan Dist., invited Short term Tender Notification through e- procurement only on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore from the eligible contractors of **PWD Class-III &** above of any State/Central Government/Public Sector organization in Two cover system on the basis of **KW-3** conditions. **1)** Maximum Estimate cost: **Rs. 95.00 Lakhs, 2)** Minimum Estimate cost **Rs. 70.00 Lakhs. 3)** Maximum **EMD amount Rs.1.60Lakhs. 4)** Minimum **EMD amount Rs.1.18Lakhs 5)** Number of Works: **07(Seven) 6)** The contractor can have access e-tender documents from Date:-**02-07-2022 from 4.00 PM to** Date:-**11-07-2022 at 4.00 pm.** through website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on payment (Non Refundable) of transaction fees as fixed by e –portal, **7)** Pre-bid meeting on Date:- **07-07-2022** at **04.00PM** onwards. (if possible) **8)** Opening of Technical bid on Date:- **13-07-2022** at **11.00** am onwards. (if possible) **9)** Opening of Financial bid on Date:- **After the Approval of Technical Bid. 10)**Time limit :**04 months** (Excluding monsoon). For further information etc., contact in the undersigned office during working hours or through website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** (Department).

Sd/-Executive Engineer, CNNL, Yagachi Project Division, Belur

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

BIRTH CENTENARY

CENTENARY OBEISANCE
Our respectful homage to our beloved AMMA

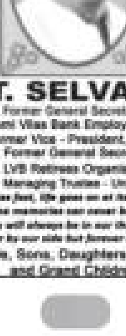
"Loved beyond words, missed beyond measure"
Mrs.KOKILA KRISHNARAJ
26.06.1922 to 26.06.2022
Forever in our midst
Krishnaraj Family

DEATH

U.JOTHI KUMAR (79), Retired Controller (Electronics), The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 25-06-2022. Address: Plot No: 628, 7th Street, Sector D, Anna Nagar Western Extension, Chennai - 600101. Ct: 9884186664

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY



Mr. T. SELVARAJ
Former General Secretary, Lakshmi Vilas Bank Employees Union
Former Vice - President, NCBE
Former General Secretary, LVB Retirees Organisation
Founder - Managing Trustee - Unity Foundation.
Wife, Sons, Daughters-in-law and Grand Children

IN BRIEF

Atmakur bypoll: all set for counting of votes

NELLORE

The stage is set for counting of votes polled in the June 23 byelection to the Atmakur Assembly seat amid tight security in SPSR Nellore district of in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. The byelection was necessitated by the demise of Information Technology Minister Mekapatti Goutham Reddy.

New public prosecutor in Attappady lynching case

PALAKKAD

The Kerala government has appointed Rajesh M. Menon as special public prosecutor in the lynching case of Attappady Madhu. Madhu's family had demanded that public prosecutor Rajendran be replaced by Mr. Menon. Mr. Rajendran tendered his resignation as Madhu's family displayed their displeasure and mistrust in him.

Cong. goes on protest against attack on Rahul Gandhi's office

Attack perpetrated with the consent of Chief Minister's Office, says Venugopal

STAFF REPORTER
KALPETTA

Thousands of people took part in a march organised on Saturday by the Wayanad district committee of the United Democratic Front in protest against the attack on the regional office of Rahul Gandhi, MP, here allegedly by the workers of Students Federation of India.

The march, which started from the MP's office near North Kalpetta, culminated at Chungam Junction. Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal, MP, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president K. Sudhakaran, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan, and K. Muraleedharan, T.N. Prathapan, and Raj Mohan Unnithan, MPs, led the demonstration.

Loud and clear: A protest march taken out by the UDF in Kalpetta on Saturday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Inaugurating a meeting held in connection with the march, Mr. Venugopal said the attack was perpetrated with the consent of the Chief Minister's Office. Marches to offices of MLAs and MPs were common in a democratic setup, but the police would stop protesters at least 500 metres away from the offices. But such a police action was not seen at the SFI march on Friday on the intervention of a top leader. As the public had the right to know the leader, the government should reveal it, he said.

Mr. Venugopal said the recent Supreme Court judgment provided for the dilution of the minimum width of Eco-Sensitive Zones in 'overwhelming' public interest and allowed the State government to approach the Central Empowered Committee and the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. But such an action should be initiated by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, not by Rahul Gandhi. The ball was now in the court of Mr. Vijayan, he said.

Meanwhile, some UDF workers allegedly threw stones at the office of the CPI (M) organ *Desabhimani* during the march. The police have registered a case in connection with the incident.

500 COVID cases logged for third day in Telangana

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Telangana continued to log nearly 500 COVID-19 cases for the third consecutive day with 496 persons testing positive on Saturday. While 28,808 samples were put to test, results of 342 were awaited.

The State had recorded 494 cases on Thursday and 493 on Friday.

341 in Hyderabad

Of the 496 new infections, the highest of 341 were from Hyderabad, 68 from Rangareddy and 40 from Medchal-Malkajgiri.

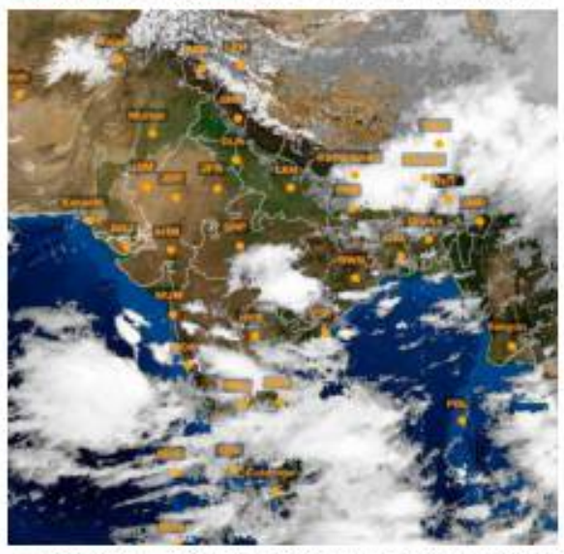
Of the 43 COVID patients in hospitals, eight were in ICU and 15 were occupying oxygen beds.

Active cases

The active caseload has risen to 3,613.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Assam, Manipur, Bihar, Odisha, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over West Bengal, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	33.6	25.8	Kozhikode	36	28.8	24.0
Ahmedabad	–	41.4	28.3	Kurnool	–	34.2	25.2
Aizawl	0.3	26.4	20.9	Lucknow	–	38.6	30.2
Allahabad	–	37.9	29.4	Madurai	–	35.5	26.7
Bengaluru	–	26.9	20.5	Mangaluru	68	29.4	22.5
Bhopal	–	38.0	25.2	Mumbai	36	33.6	24.8
Bhubaneswar	–	32.6	24.8	Mysuru	2	30.0	21.4
Chandigarh	–	39.9	25.3	New Delhi	–	40.5	24.3
Chennai	0.2	36.0	27.0	Patna	3	36.6	27.0
Coimbatore	–	27.2	23.0	Port Blair	32	29.5	23.4
Dehradun	–	36.3	23.1	Puducherry	5.9	32.8	23.8
Gangtok	0.8	21.2	17.2	Pune	1.4	32.5	24.0
Goa	74	30.0	22.5	Raipur	9	35.5	24.5
Guwahati	0.8	35.0	26.8	Ranchi	3	32.0	22.5
Hubballi	–	26.0	21.0	Shillong	0.1	26.1	18.0
Hyderabad	2	32.8	23.6	Shimla	–	30.3	20.6
Imphal	23	30.2	22.2	Srinagar	–	30.6	14.3
Jaipur	–	40.3	28.8	Thiruvananthapuram	14	31.0	23.7
Kochi	54	27.8	23.3	Tiruchi	–	33.3	26.5
Kohima	–	24.7	–	Vijayawada	28	33.6	23.6
Kolkata	26	32.0	26.1	Visakhapatnam	2	29.2	25.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	63	59	56	88	135	
Bengaluru	15	21	24	74	78	
Chennai	14	29	48	59	47	
Delhi	31	105	57	269	315	
Hyderabad	16	12	22	86	72	
Kolkata	12	13	18	49	57	
Lucknow	13	61	56	135	127	
Mumbai	63	30	46	16	29	
Pune	128	30	45	48	40	
Visakhapatnam	14	49	48	73	91	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bihar Sharif, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 318 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Gangtok, Sikkim recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

The Hindu BusinessLine to host MSME growth conclave tomorrow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are considered to be the strong pillars of the Indian economy. From providing employment opportunities to nearly 12 crore workers to contributing 30% of India's GDP and 45% of the country's exports, MSMEs serve as the crucial growth drivers of the Indian economy.

As a tribute to the contribution of small businesses and entrepreneurs, *The Hindu BusinessLine* will host 'MSME Growth Conclave' on June 27 in Bengaluru to commemorate International MSME Day. The conclave is powered by Dell Technologies Intel Evo vPro platform in association with Canara Bank. The event will discuss about how MSMEs can contribute more to the India growth story and how they can re-imagine their businesses by leveraging technology and innovation.

This event brings together MSMEs from various fields to celebrate the spirit of MSMEs and their resilience in emerging stronger from the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic. C.N. Ashwath Narayan, Minister for IT/BT, Higher Education, Skilling, Science & Technology, will deliver the inaugural address. It will be followed by two power-packed panel discussions on topics 'Integrating MSME's Into the India Growth Story' and 'Role of Technology in Transforming MSMEs'.

The speakers include Ravi Machani, MD, Machani Group; Anant Koppar, serial entrepreneur and former president, Bangalore Chamber of Industry & Commerce; Suhas Rajkumar, founder and CEO of Simple Energy; D.V. Manjunatha, founder & MD of Emmvee Group; Vineet Rao, CEO, Dealshare; Khilan Haria, SVP & Head payments, products, Razorpay; Radhesh Shankaranarayanan, Director & GM - Medium Business India, Dell; and Lakshminarayan Swaminathan, CXO supply growth, Meesho.

State Bank of India, Government of Karnataka Department of Industries & Commerce, & SSVM Institutions Coimbatore are the associate sponsors for the conclave. Luxury partner is BMW Navnit Motors and radio partner is Radio City.

The event will be live streamed on www.thehindubusinessline.com/

JNTU-Kakinada suspends 11 students for ragging

Action follows an alert from the UGC

STAFF REPORTER
KAKINADA

The Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU-Kakinada) authorities have suspended 11 B.Tech students for allegedly ragging a first year male student pursuing B.Tech on the university campus in Kakinada city of Andhra Pradesh.

All the 11 are staying in the university hostel. Two of them are from the third year while others are second year students. The university authorities have swung into action following a written complaint lodged by the victim's family with the University Grants Commission.

The UGC has forwarded the complaint to the JNTU-K Vice-Chancellor Prof. P.V.R. Prasada Raju and Kakinada SP M. Raveendranath Babu seeking action.

"The students have been suspended from the university for two months and from the academic activity for two weeks," Mr. Prasada Raju told *The Hindu*.

The victim was given additional written assignments by the accused during the alleged ragging. "An internal inquiry committee on ragging is investigating the issue. The Kakinada city police are also probing it," said Prof. Prasada Raju.

The police are yet to initiate any legal action in the matter.

Mastermind in Secunderabad violence booked under 26 sections

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Avula Subba Rao, director of a clutch of centres of Sai Defence Academy in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and chief conspirator in the violence that rocked the Secunderabad railway station on June 17 has been arrested by police along with three others – Malla Reddy, Shiva Kumar and Beesi Reddy. For the large-scale violence and arson, that also resulted in the death of a young Army job aspirant from Warangal district, Subba Rao was booked under 26 sections – under the IPC, the provisions under the Railway Act and the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

Tremors felt in Sullia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

People in Sullia taluk of Dakshina Kannada district felt mild tremors on June 25 morning. However there was no damage reported.

Deputy Commissioner K. V. Rajendra said he has been receiving calls about tremors that lasted a few seconds in Sampaje, Aranthod and adjoining regions on Saturday. He was in touch with the state disaster management authority for more information about the tremor, including its magnitude and epicentre. The tremor, recorded at 9.09 am on Saturday, had an intensity of 2.7 magnitude on the Richter Scale, according to the district administration. The epicentre of the earthquake was located 4.7 km northwest of Karike Gram Panchayat, Madikeri taluk, Kodagu district, bordering Dakshina Kannada.

The region is located close to Jodupala and falls beneath the Kodagu region on the foothills of the Western Ghats that had witnessed massive landslides, changes in the river course and other related damage a couple of years ago. Since then the people in the region have been feeling tremors during the onset of monsoon, said a resident of Sampaje.

Stalin launches 'Kalloori Kanavu' programme

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday launched the 'Kalloori Kanavu' programme under the 'Naan Mudhalvan' initiative which aims at guiding and counselling students who have completed Class XII.

At the function held at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, he said students were the intellectual assets of the State and it was the duty of the government to help them grow. Students from government and government-aided schools participated in the event.

The programme will be held in all districts on June 29, 30, July 1 and July 2. "Tamil Nadu has been leading in parameters like literacy rate, quality of education, gross enrolment ratio, among others and we have to move further and that is the education policy we follow and 'Kalloori Kanavu' is one such scheme," Mr. Stalin said.

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020
No.: BDA/LO/TEN/01/2022-23 Dated: 24.06.2022

INVITATION FOR TENDER

The Chief Law Officer, BDA invites tender on behalf of the Commissioner, BDA, Bengaluru (Client), from reputed, eligible law firms for the work of **Consultancy Service for providing Professional advisory legal services for regulation, timely compliance and prosecution, monitoring of court cases, co-ordination with officers of different sections and communication with panel advocates and other allied legal services by setting up resident professional Legal Cell in BDA, Bengaluru.** EMD: **Rs. 1.00 Lakh. Calendar of Events: (1)** Date of uploading the tender documents: 27.06.2022. **(2)** Last date and time for receipt of queries: **02.07.2022 up to 17.00 Hours. (3)** Date and Time of Pre-Tender conference: **04.07.2022 at 15.00 Hours. (4)** Place of Pre-Tender conference: **Office of the Chief Law Officer, BDA, T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560 020. (5)** Last date and time for receipt of bid: **11.07.2022 up to 17.00 Hours. (6)** Time and date of opening of Technical bid: **12.07.2022 at 17.00 Hours. (7)** Date of opening of Financial bid: **will be intimated to the Qualified law firms.**
For more details please refer e-Procurement portal website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact at Office of the **Chief Law Officer, BDA, T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560 020 or e-Procurement Helpdesk at 080-46010000/68948777.**

Sd/- Chief Law Officer, BDA, Bengaluru
BDA/PRO/TN/06/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION HAVERI
Tel No: 08375-232454
No. EE/PREDn/HVR/PB-2/Tender/2022-23/1350 Date: 23-06-2022

E-procurement Tender Notification No: 10/2022-23 (1st Call)

The Panchayat Raj Engineering Department through Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Haveri on behalf of Government of Karnataka invites the E-Portal Tender as per KW-3 from the eligible and approved Class-1 Contractors registered in PWD and registered for e-Procurement for the following works, including their Defect liabilities Period for one year under Different schemes Details can also be obtained in **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
1) Chinnikatti Tipalapur Cross Road (Indent No. 91438)
2) Kurubagonda - Herelingadahalli Road, (Indent No. 91386)
1. Last Date for Receipt of completed tender documents through online : 01-07-2022 up to 4:00 PM 2. Date of technical bid opening (in possible) : 02-07-2022 @ 5:00 PM 3. Date of Financial bid opening (if possible) : 05-07-2022 @ 11:00 AM
More details can also taken from the office of the undersigned during working hours and also through the E-portal website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** by clicking list of Tenders which will link to all department

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division Haveri
DIPR/Haveri/102/2022-23/Deshpande Publicity

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE FOR MISCELLANEOUS WORK
Tender No. - 723 - El-H - Cabin-LC Gates. Date: 23.06.2022.

Name of Work : Installation/ testing/ commissioning of new Centralized Electronic Interlocking at H-Cabin (Raipur Division) in connection with construction of loop Line work and shifting/ closure of LC gates, S & T clearance, Alteration in existing PI/ EI system in lieu of ROB, RUB & LROB engineering work in Raipur and Nagpur Division of South East Central Railway.
Tender Value : ₹ 11,74,28,615.30/- (Rupees Eleven Crores Seventy Four Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Fifteen and Thirty Paise Only). **EMD:** ₹ 7,37,200/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Thirty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Only). **Closing of Tender:** Up to **11:00** Hrs. on **15.07.2022**.
For further details/ eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above work, please contact office of the Dy. Chief Signal &Tele. Engineer/ Con./South East Central Railway, Shahdol or refer/download tender document which is available on our website **www.ireps.gov.in**.
For Dy. Chief Sig. & Tele. Engg./Con. CPR/10/93 S.E.C. Railway, Shahdol.
South East Central Railway @secrail

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: NHAI_SBC Div
Dated : 16.06.2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Shifting of S&T railway utilities of ROB No 98 at Rly Km. 142/700-800 between Kolar – Bangarapet Stations on NH-04, ROB at Km. 43/547 Dodbele - Nidvanda stations on NH-848 (Old NH-207) & ROB in Lieu of LC no.96 at Rly Km. 228/500-600 between Patchur - Mulanur.	Rs. 14,83,251.63

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 08-07-2022
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer
PUB/178/AAS/PRB/SWR/2022-23 Bengaluru
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

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Apply within Four days to
Email: seniorschool7@gmail.com
DATE OF INTERVIEW: 03.07.2022 SUNDAY.
CELL: 9790386387

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WALK - IN

EVERSENDAI
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PROJECT MANAGER / CONSTRUCTION MANAGER PLANNING MANAGER (Venue at Chennai only)
Diploma / BE / ME (Civil / Mechanical) with minimum 10-15 years of experience in Structural steel / Composite projects in Operations, Planning with Primavera / MS Projects.

SENIOR ENGINEER & ENGINEER - CONNECTION DESIGN / CONCRETE DESIGN
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FROM PAGE ONE

16 rebels asked to reply to notice by tomorrow

At a virtual press conference from Guwahati as a representative of the rebel group, Deepak Kesarkar, MLA, said, "We have a majority with us and, as per the rule, we can sit as a separate group in the Assembly. We will not merge with any other party. We have not left the Shiv Sena, but we are the Shiv Sena. The decision of ours is because the Congress and the NCP were weakening the party in Maharashtra."

Asked about the reasons behind the rebel MLAs' prolonged stay in Guwahati and their decision to not return to Maharashtra, Mr. Kesarkar said that it was not safe to return. "Law and order in the State is getting problematic. A number of offices of our MLAs have been attacked. It is extremely sad to see that the State government is not taking action against this, especially against the man who is instigating the mob," he said.

Earlier, the Shiv Sena's national executive passed six resolutions in a bid to strengthen Mr. Thackeray's control over the organisation as the revolt has threatened to dethrone him from the position as the party's head.

"The Shiv Sena has remained loyal to the ideology of Hindutva and will remain so in future. It never betrayed Maharashtra's sovereignty and the pride of the Marathi-speaking population and will never do so," said the resolution.

Teesta, former IPS officer detained

"The falsity of their claims had been fully exposed by the SIT after a thorough investigation," the court noted and added that allegations were made by Ms. Jafri solely on the basis of the "ultra-sensational revelation" by Mr. Sreekumar, Mr. Bhatt, and former Gujarat Minister Haren Pandya.

The police have booked the former police officers and Ms. Setalvad under Sections 468, 471, 194, 211, 218, and 120-B of the IPC.

After filing the FIR at the Detection of Crime Branch, the police picked up Mr. Sreekumar, a former senior police officer who worked with Ms. Setalvad on the 2002 riots cases after his superannuation, from his residence in Gandhinagar.

A team from the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) was rushed to Mumbai to pick up Ms. Setalvad, whose NGO, Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP), was a petitioner in the 2002 riots cases in the Gujarat High Court and Supreme Court.

Ms. Setalvad is being brought to Ahmedabad and will be arrested after her custody is handed over to Crime Branch officials.

Mr. Sreekumar was briefly in charge of the State Intelligence Bureau during the 2002 communal violence. He had accused the State administration of preventing the police from carrying out their duties during the communal riots, while Mr. Bhatt had filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court naming Mr. Modi regarding his role in the riots. Mr. Bhatt had also alleged that he had attended a meeting called by the then CM at his residence after the Sabarmati Express was torched in Godhra, in which 59 pilgrims returning from Ayodhya were charred to death.

The FIR by Darshansinh B. Barad, Police Inspector, Detection of Crime Branch, Ahmedabad city, alleges that Ms. Jafri had admitted in her cross-examination in the Gulberg Society case that Mr. Sreekumar, then an IPS officer, had come to the said building on February 28, 2002, and that he had been working with Ms. Setalvad. Ms. Jafri had also given a statement before the Nanavati Shah Commission (appointed to probe the Godhra train burning) on August 22, 2003, but she had no occasion to read the copy of the statement. "This indicates that Ms. Jafri was tutored by Ms. Setalvad, a fact that she had to admit in cross examination," the FIR mentions.

According to the FIR, Ms. Jafri had also admitted in the cross examination that she had followed Ms. Setalvad's instructions throughout. In the final supplementary report by the SIT, it had been clearly noted that 19 witnesses insisted on recording their signed statements, which according to them had been prepared by Ms. Setalvad.

"Around 5.30 p.m., six police officers came to office and took Teesta to the Santacruz Police Station. The officers forcibly took Teesta and said they had a warrant but did not show it," Surekha Kalmaste, who works with Ms. Setalvad at the Sabrang office, said. Ms. Setalvad wrote to the officer of the Santacruz Police Station that read: "A lady police officer in a T-shirt and jeans walked into my room and assaulted me. They did not show me any FIR or warrant on why they had 8-10 people in my compound. I have a big bruise on my left hand. I got a call in the afternoon asking my colleague who was in-charge of my security and how many personnel are in-charge. Within half an hour, two Central Industrial Security Force armed police officers came to our office."

Airfares sting, no 'low-cost' flight in skies

Fuel, Mr. Singh said, accounted for more than 50% of the airline's operating costs, higher from earlier levels of 30%-40%.

Vistara's CEO Vinod Kannan too has said that an increase in airfares was "inevitable". IndiGo also called for raising the upper limit of the fare bands imposed by the government for bookings 15 days before departure.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), in its latest global outlook, says the fare hike will not deter travellers because of the massive pent-up demand for travel after a gap of two years as well as savings accumulated during the pandemic, but the price insensitivity could fade in 2023 as consumers have filled their travel deficit.

While increased airfares so far was backed by a strong demand for travel, airline CEOs will watch how passengers respond to the hike once the summer break draws to a close and the industry enters the lean travel season from July to September. "We have to cross our fingers, wish, pray and see what happens," Vistara's CEO told reporters recently. The bigger players in the market such as IndiGo, with much larger number of planes to fill, will determine which way other players go.

"We are 9% of the market share. 91% of the market is determining fares and pricing to a certain extent. Where I bring some value to the table and I can justify that value, which is on international and certain [other] routes, we will try and do that [raise fares]. But on other routes we will have to see how the market behaves."

PM heads to Germany for G-7 summit

Modi and Trudeau may reset India-Canada ties that suffered after Ottawa's comments on farmers' stir

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will seek a reset in ties as they hold bilateral talks on the sidelines of the G-7 summit in Germany on June 26-27, their first such meeting in four years, since Mr. Trudeau's visit to India in 2018.

Relations had come under strain in 2020, over Mr. Trudeau's comments on the farmers' protests in 2020, which India had protested with a stern demarche, and cancellation of official meetings, but New Delhi and Ottawa have been working together in a number of areas, particularly on a trade deal, in an effort to bring ties back on track.

The two leaders, who will be in the Bavarian resort of Schloss Elmau during the summit, where India is one of the special invitees, had met briefly during the G-20 summit in Rome in October 2021, and spoken on the telephone three times during the pandemic.

In his departure statement on Saturday, Mr. Modi, who will be in Germany on Sunday, and then go to the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday, said that he would make interventions during the special sessions on "topical issues such as environment, energy, climate, food security, health, counter-terrorism, gender equality and democracy."

Mr. Modi will fly into Munich on Sunday and attend an Indian diaspora community event, before being taken by helicopter to Schloss Elmau. A meeting with Argentinian President Alberto Fernandez and another with the Bavarian Minister-President Markus Thomas Theodor Söder are scheduled for Sunday as well.

When asked, the Canadian High Commission spokesperson confirmed that a bilateral meeting between Mr. Modi and Mr. Trudeau is being scheduled during the G-7 summit, possibly on Monday, and that "strengthening engagement and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and on climate, as well as deepening trade ties" is on the agenda for talks.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) declined to comment on the meeting, saying Mr. Modi's schedule is still being finalised.

However, an official confirmed the summit, adding that apart from the economic agenda, with an interim trade agreement expected to be completed this year, the two leaders would discuss security and "mobility" issues, referring to problems in visas and immigration.

Visa approvals

On Friday, the MEA announced that senior officials dealing with eight western countries, including the U.S. and Canada, had met with heads of missions in New Delhi to discuss how to streamline visas to Indian students who were facing long delays.

Currently, 7,00,000 Indian applications for visas are pending with the Canadian government.

Sources said it is also likely that Mr. Trudeau would discuss India's stand on the war in Ukraine, given that the Canadian Prime Minister, who made what he called stopping "Russia's illegal actions" the focus of his discussions in Kigali, Rwanda on Saturday, where he attended the Commonwealth Summit.

Back on track: Anti-G7 protesters march in the city centre, a day ahead of the scheduled start of the G7 summit, on Saturday in Munich, Germany (left); Justin Trudeau and Narendra Modi willl meet again on the sidelines of the summit. • GETTY IMAGES

Emergency a 'constitutional system': Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

On a day when several Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders took on the Congress over the Emergency imposed by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, a statement issued by the Congress in party-ruled Chhattisgarh called it a "*samvaidhanik vyavastha*" or "constitutional system".

According to the statement issued by the Chhattisgarh Congress media incharge Sushil Anand Shukla, "...the Emergency was a constitutional step taken according to the then circumstances of the country".

In March last year, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi had said the Emergency was a "mistake".

Mr. Shukla later said that he stood by his statement.

A village votes

By the ballot: Voters queue up to cast their vote during the first phase of panchayat elections at Jharkheda village, near Bhopal, in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. • A.M.FAROOQUI

Pak. opposes G-20 events in Kashmir

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Pakistan on Saturday took exception to the Indian government's move to hold meetings related to the G-20 event, scheduled for November next year in Delhi, in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Government of India might be contemplating to hold some G-20 related meeting or event in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Pakistan completely rejects any such attempt by India," a Pakistani foreign office spokesperson said in Pakistan's capital Islamabad.

He said Jammu and Kashmir was an internationally recognised "disputed" territory between Pakistan and India.

'Unacceptable travesty'

"Contemplating the holding of any G-20 related meeting or event in Jammu and Kashmir, in utter disregard of the globally acknowledged "disputed" status of the territory, is a travesty that the international community cannot accept under any circumstances," the spokesperson added.

The spokesperson said any such controversial proposal from India would be designed to seek international legitimacy for an illegal and tyrannical occupation continuing for over seven decades.

"The G-20 members will be fully cognizant of the imperatives of law and justice and would reject it outright."

Strong reaction

"Pakistan also strongly urges the international community to call upon India to end its gross and systematic violations of human rights in J&K, revoke its illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019, and free all political prisoners including the true Kashmiri leaders," the spokesperson said.

The Pakistan reaction comes a day after the Jammu and Kashmir administration constituted a committee to coordinate with the delegates of G-20 countries scheduled to participate in meetings to be held in the Union Territory (UT) in the run-up to the summit in Delhi next year.

JJ Act amendment may backfire

Experts say making these crimes non-cognisable will have a discouraging effect

ABHINAY LAKSHMAN
NEW DELHI

Reporting instances of abuse and cruelty by staffers or persons in-charge at child care institutions (CCI) is not easy. While the victims themselves are unable to directly report them due to the imbalance in power, most such crimes are reported to the police by either parents or child rights bodies and child welfare committees (CWC).

On the one hand, the parents of these children, who are mostly daily wage labourers, are either unaware of how to, or not inclined to, report the crimes to the police. On the other hand, the CWCs' first instinct in most cases is to "talk and arrive at a settlement" without having to escalate the matter to the police.

With the 2021 amendment to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protections) Act making these crimes non-cognisable along with several other serious crimes under the special law, experts and child rights bodies have raised the alarm saying this would make reporting them to the police even more difficult.

"The current system of reporting crimes committed by staff at CCIs already causes delays in registering FIRs (first information report) and sometimes FIRs not being registered at all," Bharti Ali of the HAQ Centre for Child Rights, an NGO in Delhi said. Bikramjeet Singh, CWC Chairperson in Bathinda explained that once they get to know of such cases – either through NGOs, the children or their parents – meetings were convened with the victim in the presence of the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO), following which both the CWC and the DCPO decided whether the matter needed to be reported to the police. "In most cases, we figure out a way to talk to the children and solve their problems without having to file a police complaint," he said.

Pan-India problem

Anurag Kundu, Chairperson of the Delhi Commission for the Protection of Child Rights, added that this was a pan-India problem, saying, "This amendment encourages such thinking and will discourage officials from reporting such instances to the police."

Ms. Ali said that in some cases, NGOs or child rights activists decided to report such instances directly to the police given that they are a cognisable offence (until the amended JJ Act is notified). "But the police will look for someone to be made a complainant even when they can verify the complaint and register an FIR if it is a cognisable offence," she said.

But according to the Code of Criminal Procedure, once the crimes are rendered non-cognisable, the police will be able to register an FIR only on the directions of a magistrate and a complainant will first have to approach the magistrate concerned to start the process.

Ms. Ali explained that most children at CCIs whose parents are daily-wage labourers do not want to engage with the legal process because that would force them to take time off from work, resulting in loss of wages.

"So, they are already discouraged from getting an FIR registered because that would mean they have to appear in court. Now, if another step is added, it will further discourage them," she said.

Despite these circumstances, data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) show that since it started recording these crimes in 2017, they had risen by over 700% by 2019. The NCRB in 2017 recorded 278 cases of crimes committed by CCI officials in-charge across India involving 328 child victims. These cases rose to 1,968 by 2019, involving as many as 2,699 child victims.

State Commissions for the Protection of Child Rights in Delhi, Punjab, Chandigarh, Rajasthan and West Bengal have already publicly spoken out against the 2021 JJ Act amendment and have even flagged it to the Union government. Moreover, the Delhi Commission for the Protection of Child Rights has also challenged the amendment in the Supreme Court.

Offences reclassified

Specifically, the amendment under challenge is the one to Section 86 of the JJ Act, according to which crimes under the special law, with punishment between three and seven years, have been reclassified as non-cognisable. These crimes include cruelty to children by CCI staff (Section 75), employment of children for begging (Section 76), using children to smuggle or sell intoxicating substances and narcotics (Section 78), sale and procurement of children (Section 81), exploitation of child employees (Section 79), use of children by militant or other groups for illegal purposes (Section 83), and giving children intoxicating/psychotropic substances or narcotics (Section 77).

Hasina opens Padma multipurpose bridge

India lauds Bangladesh PM's initiatives

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Government of India has congratulated Bangladesh on the completion of the Padma Multipurpose Bridge.

Praising the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the Indian High Commission in Dhaka said the infrastructure project illustrates her bold decision-making abilities and that India has always supported the developmental initiatives of Bangladesh.

"The Padma bridge will not just help the internal connectivity of Bangladesh, but will also improve trade and logistics between India and Bangladesh. This bridge will play an important role in improving bilateral India-Bangladesh and subregional links," said the Indian mission in a congratulatory message.

The Padma Multipurpose Bridge is the biggest infrastructure project of Bangladesh. It was inaugurated on Saturday morning by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by paying toll tax.

"This success proves the resolve of Prime Minister Hasina that we strongly believed in. India extended unwavering support when Bangladesh decided to self-finance the construction of the project," declared the official Indian statement.

An aerial photograph of the Padma multipurpose bridge and railway project in Louhajang, Dhaka. • AFP

The bridge will connect at least 20 districts of Bangladesh and is expected to help in faster transportation of goods and commodities with India and other neighbouring countries like Nepal and Bhutan.

Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif too sent a congratulatory message to Ms Hasina and said the "bridge is an important landmark in the development journey of fraternal Bangladesh".

In a speech delivered on Friday, Prime Minister Hasina, however, said that the principal opposition BNP is linked with Pakistan. "They always sing *dil me hei Pakistan*, so it is obvious that they do not want prosperity of Bangladesh," said Ms Hasina criticising those who used to oppose the construction of the Padma bridge.

Agnipath will cleave the Army: Hooda

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition in Haryana Assembly Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Saturday said that Centre's Agnipath scheme for defence forces would create two types of Armies in the country – one permanent and one temporary.

He said the party would continue to oppose 'Agnipath' scheme and would hold a sit-in 'dharna' across the country on June 27. Addressing a press conference, Mr. Hooda said the Agnipath scheme is neither in the interest of the country, nor in the interests of national security, the Army or the youth. "With this plan, there would be two types of armies, one permanent and one temporary. It will be very difficult to establish coordination between them," he said.

Mr. Hooda said that the Haryana government is misleading the youth of the State by promising permanent jobs to 'Agniveers', while the reality is that Haryana is facing the highest unemployment in the whole country, due to the ill-conceived policies of the BJP-JJP government.

Taking up multiple causes, Cong. now a party of protests

Taking to the streets for issues such as Agnipath, it hopes to connect with people

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

With 20 press conference across the country on Sunday and a nation-wide satyagraha on Monday by MPs and MLAs against Agnipath, the Congress plans to step up its campaign against the new recruitment scheme for the defence services.

While the move is aimed at reaching out to the youth who are protesting against the new scheme, it is also a way to reconnect with the people through the path of agitations.

The party has already announced a Kanyakumari-to-Kashmir *Bharat Jodo* [Unite India] yatra to coincide with Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary on October 2, took out an *Azadi Gaurav* yatra and organised other protests against price rise and unemployment following the call given at the *Nav Sankalp chintan shivir* in Udaipur last month.

And when former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi was subjected to long hours of questioning by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case involving the *National Herald* newspaper, the party converted the occasion into a massive show of strength on the streets of Delhi.

New-found vigour: The police clashing with members of the Youth Congress in Bengaluru in Karnataka on Friday. • PTI

Rahul's summoning

Starting June 13, the first day of Mr. Gandhi's questioning, party leaders and workers were in protest mode for over a week to highlight the misuse of the ED against their leader.

With many MPs and top party leaders including Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his Chhattisgarh counterpart, Bhupesh Baghel, taking part in the protests for several days, many were prompted to ask if the Congress takes up a common man's issues with the same vigour.

Abhishek Manu Singhvi, member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), said the party cannot be "accused of being supine or inactive in the same breath when protests over various issues are taking place".

"I must point out that there have been a series of such movements since 2014 and it is only for COVID-19 that there were a few pauses," Mr. Singhvi told *The Hindu*.

Professor Ashutosh Kumar, who teaches Political Science in Panjab University, said though inflation, unemployment are intensely political issues, the Congress has not been able convert them into an effective political narrative.

Lack of mileage

"Somehow the Congress has been unable to bring these issues to the fore and build a strong narrative. And I must say that the media too hasn't been very helpful in this regard," Mr. Kumar said.

Reflecting on Mr. Gandhi's recent statement that he wants to transform the Congress into a party of protests, he said the Congress and Rahul Gandhi are trying to go back to its legacy of marches and satyagrahas.

"The concept of yatra evokes a saintly idiom in politics; an image that you are fighting for a cause by leaving the comforts of your home. Whether or not it will work for the Congress, one can say only after they have undertaken it. But the issue is also about leadership and the Congress doesn't have anyone with [Trinamool chief] Mamata Banerjee's image of being a street fighter," he said.

BSP to back Murmu, JMM yet to decide

Shibu Soren to take a final call

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Saturday extended its support to the National Democratic Alliance's Presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu even as a meeting of the MPs and the MLAs of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), an Opposition alliance partner, convened on extending support to Ms. Murmu, ended inconclusively in Ranchi.

BSP supremo Mayawati said her party had decided to support Ms. Murmu keeping in mind that the society of tribals was an important part of the BSP's movement. "This decision was taken not to support the BJP or NDA nor to go against the Opposition UPA. It was done keeping in mind our party and its movement for making a capable and dedicated Adivasi woman the President of the country," she said.

Mayawati said that the tribal society was an important part of the BSP's movement.

Sources in the JMM said the party was under pressure from the Santhal community to support Ms. Murmu as a member of the tribe is set to hold the highest constitutional position in the country. "The party authorised JMM national president Shibu Soren to take a final decision," the JMM said in a statement.

The meeting was viewed as important for the regional party as the Santhal community constitutes its biggest vote base.

"The JMM should not be seen opposing one of its own community member at this historic juncture," a senior party leader said.

The meeting, chaired by Mr. Shibu Soren and attended by Chief Minister Hemant Soren and senior Ministers, lasted for three hours. However, no decision could be taken.

(With inputs from Delhi Bureau)

Don't use SC ruling for politics: Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court judgment that dismissed a plea to investigate a larger conspiracy behind the Gujarat riots, should not be politicised, the Congress said on Saturday.

In a series of tweets, Rajya Sabha member and senior spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi said the top court's judgment merely upheld the report of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) and held that the riots were not the result of any conspiracy.

On Friday, a three-judge Bench of the top court had rejected a petition by Zakia Jafri, widow of former Congress MP Ehsan Jafri, who was killed during a mob attack on Gulberg Society, to investigate a larger conspiracy.

In his tweet, Mr. Singhvi said that individual culpability was established previously and many were convicted of murder in the riots. He said that the court had ruled out only the role of Prime Minister Narendra Modi (then Chief Minister of Gujarat) in the riots.

He said the ruling of the top court should be respected.

BJP received donations from scam-hit DHFL, says Congress

'How did the audit of PMAY not unearth the DHFL scam?'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday accused the the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of accepting donations from the promoters and associated companies of the fraud-hit Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) and asked if there was a *quid pro quo*.

Addressing a press conference, party spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said that DHFL defrauded 17 banks to the tune of over ₹34,615 crore, but the "worrying thing is the direct link of this fraud company and the BJP".

"DHFL has been accused of committing India's biggest banking fraud, but that hasn't stopped the BJP from receiving donations amounting to over ₹27.5 crore from the tainted promoters as well as associated companies of DHFL," Ms. Shrinate alleged.

She claimed that ₹10 crore was given to the BJP from RKW Developers Ltd., owned by the promoters of DHFL, ₹10 crore from Wadhawan Global Capital Ltd. and ₹7.5 crore from Darshan Developers controlled by the Wadhawan family.

DHFL has been accused of defrauding 17 banks of over ₹34,615 crore.

"Why did the BJP continue to take money to the tune of ₹27.5 crore from bank fraudsters? Was this *quid pro quo* to allow them to misuse public money and dupe India's public sector lenders?" Ms. Shrinate said. There was, however, no immediate response from the the BJP.

The Congress spokesperson alleged that the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana was scammed by one company alone that created 2.6 lakh fake home loan accounts and asked whether an audit of the housing scheme had been done to search for more such fraudsters.

"How did the audit of PMAY not unearth the DHFL scam and it was revealed in the Yes Bank probe? The FIR states DHFL created a fictitious bank branch on paper. That raises the important question of the role of institutions like RBI, SEBI, etc. Why were they all caught unawares?" Ms. Shrinate asked.

The Congress leader claimed that India's largest banking fraud happened right under the nose of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and asked what steps the government was taking to recover money from fugitives like Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi.

GTA polls to see multiple voices, contestants

Of the 277 candidates, 108 are representatives of various political parties and 169 are Independents

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
DARJEELING

All roads leading to the Darjeeling hills were lined up with posters of multiple political parties and Independents on Saturday, the eve of elections to 45 seats of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA).

A few years ago, before every polls, the posters spoke about the creation of Gorkhaland, which has been central to the politics of the hills for the past several decades. The posters this time give details of contesting candidates and promises of development and democracy.

"*Janatako chahansa, sukh*, santi r samridhi [people want happiness, peace and prosperity]" reads posters of Anit Thapa's party Bharatiya Gorkha Prajatantrik Morcha (BGPM) with the photograph of the leader and the party's electoral symbol.

Preparations galore: Polling personnel coming out of a distribution centre in Darjeeling on Saturday. • DEBASISH BHADURI

The posters of the newly formed Hamro Party of Ajay Edwards also have the promise of democracy. "*Ab Janatako Raj* [now it is going to be rule of the people]".

The GTA polls this season are about multiple voices and contestants and many firsts. Some political parties have openly declared that they will not contest the polls.

Gorkha Janmukti Morcha president Bimal Gurung went on a hunger strike a few weeks ago, opposing polls to the GTA.

BJP stays away

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has called the GTA an "unconstitutional body" and has stayed away from the polls. The hills have voted for the BJP in the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls on the promise that the party will address long-standing demands of people of the hills.

Of the 277 candidates in the poll fray in GTA, 108 are representatives of political parties and 169, which is about 60% of all the contesting candidates, are Independents.

Only Hamro Party, the newly formed political outfit that sprang a surprise by winning the Darjeeling municipality, a few months ago has fielded candidates for all 45 seats, Anit Thapa's BGPM for 36 seats, the Trinamool Congress for 10, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) for 12 and the Congress for five.

"All security arrangements have been made. We have held meetings with candidates. The campaign has been very peaceful. We expect polling to be peaceful," Darjeeling District Magistrate S. Ponnambalam told *The Hindu*.

Cong. protests in Punjab Assembly

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Noisy scenes were witnessed in the Punjab Assembly on Saturday when Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann rose to speak on the Governor's address with Congress MLAs protesting that they were denied the time to speak.

Congress MLAs shouted slogans demanding time to speak, to which Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan responded, saying that allocated time has been given to the members. Following this, Congress MLAs led by the Leader of the Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa left the House in protest.

Mr. Mann announced the introduction of comprehensive law and order reforms in the State to eliminate "gangster culture".

He said that the government will soon introduce a witness protection Bill and modify jails of the State into high-security prisons.

The Chief Minister said that the State government is committed to maintaining law and order and action would be taken against those who disturb peace.

JHARKHAND STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
1st Floor, Jharkhand State Housing Board (Old Headquarter), Harmu Housing Colony, Ranchi-834002
Website: www.jserc.org email: info@jserc.org

NOTICE

The Jharkhand State Electricity Regulatory Commission, Ranchi invites a Bid for consultancy job in regulatory matters from capable and experienced consultants for the job. The interested person/parties/firms may download the Bid Documents containing terms and condition of Bid from the website of the Commission www.jserc.org and submit their Bid by 26th July, 2022 to the undersigned.

Sd/- (R.P. Nayak)
Secretary

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
CENTRALISED ADMISSION COMMITTEE-CENTAC
Pondicherry Engineering College Campus, Puducherry - 605 014
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION TO PG (MEDICAL/ DENTAL) COURSES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-23

Online applications are invited from NEET PG Qualified candidates for admission to the first year PG (Medical / Dental) courses in the Government and Self-Financing Medical Colleges in the UT of Puducherry. Applications are invited under Government / All India (Management) Quota. For more details visit www.centacpuducherry.in

IMPORTANT DATES
➢ Online application submission opens on : 27.06.2022
➢ Last date for online submission of application : 11.07.2022

No:130/DIP/AD(Press)/2022 -23 CONVENOR, CENTAC

दिल्ली प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय
DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
(Formerly Delhi College of Engineering)
(Estd. by Govt. of NCT of Delhi vide Act 6 of 2009)
East Delhi Campus, Vivek Vihar, Phase-II, Delhi-110095
Website : www.dtu.ac.in

Online Applications for Admission 2022-24

- MBA-FAMILY BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP (MBA-FBE)
- MBA-BUSINESS ANALYTICS (MBA-BA)
- MBA- INNOVATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND VENTURE DEVELOPMENT (MBA-IEV)

MBA-FAMILY BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP (MBA-FBE)
The MBA-FBE : enables participants to build their business, diversity, start new venture, take advantage of digital economy.
Last Date : 15.07.2022 (Saturday)
Eligibility: -
1. Graduation with Minimum 50% marks in aggregate or equivalent CGPA. Relaxation as per norms for SC/ST/PWD.
   a) Those who are appearing in final semester examination may also apply.
2. Candidates must have credentials of Family Business with GST number.

MBA-BUSINESS ANALYTICS (MBA-BA)
The MBA-BA: - Twines management and analytics fundamentals with advanced hands-on lab based analytics skills, to enable data driven decision making, modelling and predictive analytics.
Last Date : 02.07.2022 (Saturday)
Eligibility: -
a) Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 60% marks in aggregate or equivalent CGPA.
b) A candidate who has either valid CAT-2021 /CMAT-2021/MAT-2021 /MAT-2022 percentile or a Graduation degree with one year experience at time of application are eligible to apply.
c) Those who are appearing in the final semester examination with a valid CAT/CMAT/MAT percentile may also apply.

MBA- INNOVATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND VENTURE DEVELOPMENT (MBA-IEV)
The MBA-IEV : enables participants to build new venture program provides mentoring, access to financial support and incubation as well.
Last Date: To be announced on CMAC website http://52.2.84.116/cams/
1. A candidate who has passed a graduate degree program and has scored minimum 50% marks in aggregate or equivalent CGPA from a recognised university/institution are eligible to apply.
   a) Relaxation of 10% in marks to SC/ST/PWD candidates shall be given in eligibility criteria.
   b) Those who are appearing in final semester examination may also apply, provided that they submit the proof of eligibility and graduation marks at the time of personal interview.

University School of Management and Entrepreneurship (USME)
East Delhi Campus, Vivek Vihar, Phase -2, Delhi 110095
For any queries visit DTU Website www.dtu.ac.in or Email to
MBA-BA – mba.ba.usme@dtu.ac.in
MBA-FBE – mba.fbe.usme@dtu.ac.in
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Last date for submission of applications
Open General [Category-I]: 18th July, 2022
In-service [Category – II] : 22nd July, 2022
All candidates selected under Category I & IIA are eligible for Scholarship.

For application and other details, please visit :
https://vcrc.icmr.org.in
Director

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY - e-TENDER NOTICE

Tender No: SE/PHC/KKD/07/2022-23, SE/PHC/KKD/06/2022-23, SE/PHC/KKD/05/2022-23 1. CWSS to AMBALAVAYAL, NENMENI, POOTHADY AND PULPALLY GP in Wayanad District PROVIDING FHTCs in Pulpally Gp 2.CWSS to AMBALAVAYAL, NENMENI, POOTHADY AND PULPALLY GP in Wayanad District PROVIDING FHTCs in Nenmeni GP 3.CWSS to AMBALAVAYAL, NENMENI, POOTHADY AND PULPALLY GP in Wayanad District PROVIDING FHTCs in Poothadi GP. EMD: ₹ 500000, Tender fee: ₹15000 + 18% GST. Last Date for submitting Tender: 20.07.2022, 05:00pm. Phone: 0495-2371046.
Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
KWA-JB-GL-6-416-2022-23 Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kozhikode

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
HEAD OFFICE, CHENNAI - 600 010.
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (SHORT TERM)

e-Tenders are invited from the eligible contractors for Providing New RCC Plinth CAP storage with covered shed arrangements and Providing Semi Covered Shed in the existing plinth platform at 15 places in Delta and Non-Delta District.
e-Tender Notice No.:- CED5/013906/2022, dt. 24.06.2022.
Last date and time for Online Submission:- 06.07.2022 up to 2.00 P.M.
Downloading by Free of Cost:- From 29.06.2022 to 06.07.2022 up to 2.00 P.M.
Last date for receiving physical document:- 07.07.2022 up to 2.00 P.M. (E.M.D only)
Date of Opening of Online tender:- 07.07.2022 at 2.30 P.M.
For further details please visit website:- www.tntenders.gov.in
DIPR/3008/Tender/2022 MANAGING DIRECTOR

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS - TWO COVER-ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM- SHORT TERM (2nd Call)

IFB No.	No.8 /P.O & M of CWSS /DO I /CW /2022 -2023/Dt.24.06.2022
Eligibility	Registered Class I Bidders (Civil)
Tender Invitee	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, No.11 Sambakulam, Madurai -625007
Sale of Bid & Place of Sale	28.06.2022 to 11.07.2022 up to 17.45 hours at O/o the Executive Engineers concerned by remitting cash or by Demand Draft for Rs.1000+ GST vide Sl.No:1 to 4 – Project Division, Virudhunagar payable at Virudhunagar & Sl.No.5 - Maintenance Division, Tirunelveli payable at Tirunelveli
Downloading website	(Free of cost) at www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.twadboard.tn.gov.in.
Pre Bid meeting	07.07.2022 at 11.00 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	13.07.2022 before 15.00 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee in person or through post. This office will not be held responsible for postal delay, if any.
Bid opening	13.07.2022 at 15.30 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate value (Rs.in crore)	Bid security (Rs. in lakhs)
Operation and Maintenance of CWSS including repair and rectification works (For the period from 16.07.2022 to 31.03.2023)			
1	CWSS to 637 rural habitations in Virudhunagar District	4.78	3.48
2	CWSS to 755 Rural Habitations in Virudhunagar District	4.23	3.28
3	CWSS to 7 TPs., and 306 habitations in Virudhunagar District	2.72	3.18
4	CWSS to 239 Costal habitations in Thoothukudi District, 2 Mptys. and 2TPs. in Virudhunagar District	2.33	1.73
5	CWSS to Manur in Tirunelveli District	3.24	1.78

DIPR / 3017 / TENDER / 2022 SAVE WATER, CONSERVE WATER, EVERY DROP COUNTS
Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Madurai

'Not spending money on Maharashtra MLAs'

Himanta denies paying for their stay in Guwahati

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday denied the claim that the State government was paying for the food and accommodation of dissident Maharashtra MLAs camping at a five-star hotel in Guwahati since June 22.

At least 40 MLAs, led by Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde, have been at the hotel for almost a week now.

"Why should the Assam government settle their hotel bills? Assam is not spending anything on them. File an RTI, you will know it," Mr. Sarma said.

"I don't think the Maharashtra MLAs are facing such a difficulty that we have to take care of their hotel expenses," he added.

CM attacks Opposition

Mr. Sarma said he was not following Maharashtra politics, and cited an Assamese proverb to prove his point. The proverb literally means: "It is useless for a ginger trader to keep track of ships."

He also justified the frequent visits by some of the Assam BJP leaders to the hotel. "Our leaders go to other hotels too. I will also go there if I feel like having a cup of tea," the Assam Chief Minister said.

After Assam Pradesh Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah, Raijor Dal president and MLA Akhil Gogoi demanded that the Maharashtra legislators should go back.

"He is trying to render the Assamese youth, who work at the hotel, jobless. His agenda is to let business suffer and people lose their jobs so that he can make the most of starting an agitation," the Chief Minister said on Saturday.

Flood relief

On the floods, the Chief Minister said the State government was carrying out relief and rescue operations with central funds.

"We have not had to spend the State's funds so far," he said amid criticisms of the Centre for not announcing any flood relief package for Assam.

Affected people

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, four more people, including two children, died on Saturday to take the death toll due to floods and landslips in heavy rain to 121 since April.

The number of districts has come down to 27 from a high of 35, but over 10.3 lakh people are still affected across 2,894 villages and three urban centres, especially the southern Assam town of Silchar.

Salt sector crisis pinches livelihood of lakhs

While farmers suffer due to lack of MSP, workers are in distress for want of wage system and security

A.M. JIGEESH
MORBI/JAMNAGAR

A salt farmer busy at work at the Little Rann of Kutch near Patdi, Gujarat. • VIJAY SONEJI

Bharat C. Raval, president of the Indian Salt Manufacturers' Association (ISMA), started his career as a salt inspector with the Gujarat government. After spending 19 months in the government, he was attracted towards the salt cooperatives initiated by Verghese Kurien, the Milkman of India.

Kurien trained Mr. Raval at the Sabarmati Salt Farmers' Society where he joined in April 1988 as a procurement executive. Nearly 35 years later, Mr. Raval feels that the salt industry is facing huge challenges in meeting the demand and in tackling the realisation crisis faced by salt farmers.

Initially, the society where Mr. Raval worked produced 30,000 tonnes of salt. It reached up to 7,00,000 tonnes in three years, by 1991. "We have also operated CSR activities those days by providing health infrastructure support to salt farmers. Farmers were getting ₹17 a tonne when we entered the sector and the the price went up in the first years to ₹27 a tonne and touched up to ₹70 by 1991," Mr. Raval said.

There are not much changes considering the cost of living. About five lakh people work in the salt industry. At the moment, a farmer earns about ₹250 to ₹300 for a tonne of salt he or she produces. The prices keep fluctuating. Gujarat produces about 28.5 million tonnes of salt a year, which is more than 80% of the country's total production. While farmers are facing low price as there is no minimum support price, workers are in distress due to a lack of proper system for wages and social security.

There are about 12,800 salt processing units in Gujarat's coastal belt, out of which only 119 are considered medium and large.

The manufacturers have been knocking the doors of the government, along with the farmers. Very recently, Mr. Raval wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said in the letter that salt, being a cheap commodity, is getting the last priority of attention from the government. He warned the Centre that if the neglect continued, India may lose its position as the world's third largest producer of salt. "Most of our demands are as old as the freedom movement. Even after 75 years of Independence, the laws that govern this industry are framed by the British. 120 years ago, Britishers got salt from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh by mining. Therefore, the British put salt production as mining. Hardly 0.5% salt is produced by mining. 99.5% salt is produced either from the seawater or from the subsoil water and the entire process done by seeding, cultivation and harvest," Mr. Raval says.

The production units and farmers say that all laws pertaining to the industries are applicable to salt production even though the production is done through simple solar evaporation as it is listed as mining industry. "As of now, demand and supply are almost same. We produce 36 million tonnes of salt and our demand, including for export, is 31.5 million tonnes. In the future, if the government doesn't take care of this industry, we will definitely be in trouble. The demand rises at the rate of 8% and the production increase is just 3%," he said. Salt is a central subject as item No. 58 of the Union List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. The industries demand that there should be a nodal agency with common rules and regulations.

M Ramachandran, a trade union leader working among workers in salt processing units said the workers are going through serious health issues and economic distress. "Gujarat produces 80% of the salt in India. Now, companies have replaced cooperatives and they decide the wages of these workers and production of farmers. Most of them are migrant workers. Cooperative sector is more or less inactive. These workers do not have minimum wages or social security. Recently, 12 workers died in Morbi when a packing unit's wall collapsed," he said.

An arrest on Nepal border helps police bust illegal club

Two Chinese held for running exotic club without any obstruction for the past two years in Greater Noida

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The chance arrest of two Chinese nationals on the India-Nepal border in Bihar by the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) earlier this month led the Uttar Pradesh Police to a sprawling club run illegally by a Chinese national in a village on the outskirts of Delhi. The club functioned under the radar without any obstruction for the past two years in Greater Noida, only 40 km from the national capital.

The Tiangsheng Rianjen Club run by Chinese national Xue Fei in Greater Noida, 40 km from Delhi. • VIJAITA SINGH

As on Saturday, Xue Fei (36), alias Lekpa Sherpa, a Chinese national, and Petekhrinuo (22), a resident of Nagaland, had been arrested by the police, while three Indians and another Chinese national were on the run. Police and internal intelligence agencies suspect the arrests could be linked to a larger syndicate of organised crime.

The club called Tiangsheng Rianjen ('heaven on earth') was stocked with Chinese products and served mainly Chinese expats.

The police found Mr. Xue a tough nut to crack. When they interrogated him for three days, he hardly showed any sign of exertion. Perched on a plastic chair in a police interrogation room in Greater Noida, the police officers were amazed by his resilience.

"Even at night, after hours of interrogation, he was barely tired. He took quick naps sitting on the chair but did not express any desire to lie down. It seems he is well-trained to sustain interrogations," a senior police officer who interrogated Mr. Xue said. Mr. Xue, currently in an Uttar Pradesh jail, is accused of living in India on a forged Indian passport and running the exotic club illegally.

On June 11, the SSB apprehended two Chinese nationals – Yung Hai Lung and Lo Lung – on the Nepal border in Bihar's Sitamarhi while they were trying to cross over to the neighbouring country. Their interrogation revealed they had spent 15 days at Mr. Xue's place in Greater Noida. The Bihar Police passed the information to the Uttar Pradesh counterparts. When the police reached the apartment in a luxury housing society in Greater Noida, it was found to be locked. The police traced Mr. Xue and Ms. Petekhrinuo to a five-star hotel in Gurgaon on June 13 and the couple were placed under arrest.

The local police were prepared to shut the probe as yet another case of illegal stay of a foreigner in Delhi's satellite town till an officer, Meenakshi Katyayan, analysed the phone call records of the two suspects.

Ms. Katyayan said that during questioning, Mr. Xue never admitted to the existence of the club. He had destroyed his Chinese passport and from his apartment, the police found photocopies of a voter ID, Aadhaar card and an Indian passport issued from Darjeeling in the name of Lekpa Sherpa. He said he had come to India in 2019 on a business visa, and couldn't return as his visa expired

SPECIAL

and air travel was banned due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. "He said he couldn't return even after travel restrictions were lifted last year as he did not have enough money to purchase tickets. I knew he was lying as we had recovered two BMWs and another luxury car from the club premises, and ₹52 lakh had been deposited in a friend's bank account in the past six months," Ms. Katyayan said.

The Indian Police Service (IPS) officer said that one location that prominently popped in Mr. Xue and Ms. Petekhrinuo's call logs was the village Gharbara along the Yamuna Expressway. The village does not have a metalled road. In the middle of nowhere, the police found the three-storey, 70-room club. High iron gates and CCTV cameras ringed the compound running to several acres. The police found the club stacked with Chinese cigarettes, liquor, lipsticks, high-heeled shoes, human-size teddy bears and golf clubs, among other items. A food menu in Mandarin was found. The rooms were electronically locked and CCTV footage had been deleted, the police said. Around 15-20 employees of the club, including women, fled when the police reached there.

Indian accomplice

Ms. Katyayan said the police were looking for Mr. Xue's Indian accomplice, a man named Ravi Natwarlal Thakkar from Gujarat, who had studied medicine in China. A raid of his Noida home had revealed he had a Chinese passport.

The police also found his Indian passport and are in the process of issuing a look-out circular for him. "It is Ravi who has signed the rental agreement for the club that was running for more than two years," she said. The police recovered details of nine companies registered under different Chinese names from Mr. Xue's possession. The companies were registered for businesses in e-waste, mobile spare parts and earphone manufacturing. No company was found at the registered addresses when the police raided the locations in Ghaziabad, Panipat and Noida.

"Xue said he was merely an employee of the club and used to get a salary. He had used the identity documents of his Indian friend to strike business deals and make it look genuine," Ms. Katyayan said. Mr. Xue met Ms. Petekhrinuo at the Hunter Valley Club in Gurgaon more than a year ago. "She told us that the money in her account belonged to Xue. She was obviously in love and Xue took advantage of her Indian identity," the officer said.

Intelligence agencies are also analysing the case as it could be linked to a larger syndicate. Ms. Petekhrinuo told the police Mr. Xue also dabbled in bitcoin trading.

At the club premises, the police also found a diary. "The diary, with notes scribbled in English, detailed how women employees had to look presentable, wear make-up all the time, and entertain the guests," Ms. Katyayan said.

'U.S. decision could stigmatise abortion'

Unsafe practices will multiply: PFI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The United States Supreme Court's decision to overturn its own landmark 1973 judgment in *Roe v. Wade* that made abortion a Constitutional right in the country could stigmatise abortion worldwide, according to the Population Foundation of India (PFI). "Given the global influence of the U.S. across every sphere, this is likely to stigmatise reproductive health worldwide, affecting millions, if not billions of women," Poonam Muttreja, executive director, PFI, added.

Given the global influence of the U.S.... this is likely to stigmatise reproductive health worldwide, affecting millions, if not billions of women

Unregulated abortions

"The decision's implication that reproductive rights are not a part of fundamental rights could lead to similar interpretations in different countries. Such a legal regime could lead to more unsafe and unregulated abortions worldwide, which are not only a cause of severe health conditions for women but can also prove fatal," she added.

Following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision, as many as 26 States in the country are certain or likely to ban abortion without federal protections, including 13 with laws set to be triggered quickly, according to the Guttmacher Institute.

Since 1994, four nations, now including the U.S., have rolled back abortion rights. The U.S. is by far the richest and most influential nation to do so. The other three nations to restrict abortion rights are Poland, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

In India, abortion is legal but conditional. Under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) (Amendment) Act, 2021, abortion is permissible up to 24 weeks for women under specified conditions along with the medical opinion of a medical practitioner registered under the MTP Act. Any decision for the termination of pregnancy beyond 24 weeks, only on the ground of foetal abnormalities, can be taken by a Medical Board.

SUDOKU

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7		2						
			1					9

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	7	8	6	2	9	1	5	3
3	2	9	5	1	8	7	4	6
6	5	1	3	7	4	8	9	2
1	4	5	9	3	2	6	8	7
7	8	2	4	6	5	3	1	9
9	6	3	7	8	1	5	2	4
2	3	4	1	5	6	9	7	8
5	9	6	8	4	7	2	3	1
8	1	7	2	9	3	4	6	5

Scientists warn of Zika spread to newer areas

For study purpose, they had collected 1,520 clinical samples from 1,475 patients from across country

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Scientists at the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, have raised an alarm about the spread of the Zika virus, along with dengue and chikungunya, in several States and Union Territories where it has never been reported earlier, establishing local transmission in India.

Deadly bite: The Zika virus is transmitted by the bite of infected mosquitoes. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Scientists have called for urgent strengthening of surveillance, after the circulation of Zika virus was detected in Delhi, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Punjab, and Telangana in 2021, in addition to Kerala, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh.

Previously, sporadic cases were reported from Gujarat (2016-17), Tamil Nadu (2017), Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan (2018). The researchers also found co-infection of Zika, dengue and chikungunya, which, they said, was another concern in many places. There was a need to be aware and take preventive measures, they added.

The Zika virus (ZIKV), a vector-borne flavivirus, is transmitted by the bite of infected *Aedes* mosquitoes, mainly *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*.

For their study, a total of 1,520 clinical samples – serum (1,253), plasma (99), whole blood (120), and urine (48) – were collected from 1,475 patients across 16 viral research and diagnostic laboratories (VRDLs) in Delhi, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Telangana, Assam, Jharkhand, and Bihar. The samples were subsequently transferred to the apex laboratory at the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV), Pune, for molecular diagnosis, serology, and genomic analysis.

"In 2021, Zika virus outbreaks were reported in Kerala (May-July), Maharashtra (July), and Uttar Pradesh (October) and since these outbreaks were reported from distant locations and over a period of six months, we conducted a retrospective screening of dengue and chikungunya negative clinical samples (stored with VRDLs) from May to October 2021 to understand the extent of the spread of the virus in India," said Nivedita Gupta, head of virology at ICMR, who co-ordinated the study.

Pragya D. Yadav, scientist and group leader at the maximum containment laboratory at ICMR-NIV, added that after 2020, the public health surveillance of ZIKV could not be continued with the same vigour due to the involvement of all VRDLs in COVID-19 diagnostics considering the subsequent waves of the pandemic. All these VRDLs were advised to store the dengue/chikungunya test samples.

The research noted that retrospective surveillance for ZIKV demonstrated the silent spread of the virus to almost all parts of India with a predominance of the more recent 2018 Rajasthan ZIKV strain.

"Our results indicated the need for continuous and enhanced surveillance for ZIKV along with dengue and chikungunya," she said.

The scientists added that the development of quick and reliable tests as well as validating the utility of simple serology-based tests for ZIKV would help in augmenting the diagnostic capabilities. With the massive upscaling of the COVID-19 RT-PCR testing laboratories in India, this network can also be re-purposed for augmenting ZIKV testing.

"Along with these efforts, It is also essential not to lose sight of effective vector control measures and focus on the development of a safe and effective vaccine for ZIKV," the study added.

Arrested IAS officer's son found dead

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Kartik Popli (27), son of an IAS officer Sanjay Popli who was arrested on corruption charges, died by suicide on Saturday, the police said. The family of Mr. Kartik, who died in the presence of a team of Punjab Vigilance Bureau at their residence here, alleged that vigilance personnel were responsible for the incident.

Four days after the arrest, the Bureau recovered over 12 kg of gold, 3 kg of silver and other items from the storeroom of his house in Chandigarh. The gold includes nine gold bricks, 49 gold biscuits and 12 gold coins, while the silver includes three bricks and 18 silver coins, said an official statement. He was arrested for allegedly demanding a 1% commission as bribe. The family has alleged that officials were pressuring them.

Gunman kills two in Oslo 'terror attack'

Police say suspect, a Norwegian citizen of Iranian origin, has a history of violence, mental health issues

ASSOCIATED PRESS
OSLO

A gunman opened fire in Oslo's nightlife district early Saturday, killing two people and leaving more than 20 wounded in what the Norwegian security service called an "Islamist terror act" during the capital's annual LGBTQ Pride festival.

Investigators said the suspect, identified as a 42-year-old Norwegian citizen originally from Iran, was arrested after opening fire at three locations in downtown Oslo.

Police said two men, one in his 50s and and the other his 60s, died in the shootings. Ten people were treated for serious injuries, but none of them was believed to be in life-threatening condition. Eleven others had minor injuries.

The Norwegian Police Security Service raised its terror alert level from "moderate" to "extraordinary" – the highest level – after the attack, which sent panicked revelers fleeing into the streets or trying to hide from the gunman.

On alert: Norwegian security forces at the site where several people were shot outside a pub in central Oslo. • REUTERS

The service's acting chief, Roger Berg, called the attack an "extreme Islamist terror act" and said the suspect had a "long history of violence and threats," as well as mental health issues.

He said the agency, known by its Norwegian acronym PST, first became aware of the suspect in 2015 and later grew concerned he had become radicalised and was part of an unspecified Islamist network.

Upon the advice of police, organisers cancelled a Pride parade that was set for Saturday as the highlight of a weeklong festival. Scores of people marched through the capital anyway, waving rainbow flags.

One of the shootings happened outside the London Pub, a bar popular with the city's LGBTQ community, just hours before the parade was set to begin.

Benjamin Lau- Henriksen, 15, and his friend Li-Sullivan Köker Bolstad, 16, walked by the London Pub on their way home from a nearby Pride party for young people about two hours before the shooting. Had they been of drinking age, they would have been at the bar, they said.

"Had we been over 18 yesterday, we would have been there and we could have died," Bolstad said. "I'd like to say I'm surprised, but I'm not because as queer youth we live in fear of something like this happening."

Police said civilians assisted them in detaining the suspect. Police attorney Christian Hatlo said the man was being held on suspicion of murder, attempted murder and terrorism, based on the number of people targeted at multiple locations.

"Our overall assessment is that there are grounds to believe that he wanted to cause grave fear in the population," Mr. Hatlo said.

Mr. Hatlo said it was too early to say whether the gunman specifically targeted members of the LGBTQ community.

"We have to look closer at that, we don't know yet," he said.

Xi to attend Hong Kong handover celebration

Event to coincide with inauguration of new govt. on July 1

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend events to celebrate 25 years since Hong Kong's handover to China, state media reported on Saturday, with the Communist Party looking to showcase its control over the city after crushing a democracy movement.

If Mr. Xi attends in person, the trip would be his first outside of the Chinese mainland since the pandemic began. But state media and Hong Kong officials did not explicitly say whether he would travel to the city or attend virtually.

A trip would also coincide with the inauguration of Hong Kong's new administration, led by former security chief John Lee.

Xi Jinping

The Chinese Communist Party places great importance on anniversaries, and Hong Kong's handover presents Mr. Xi with an opportunity to emphasise China's authority over Hong Kong after three years of political upheaval there.

Hong Kong is at the halfway point of the "One Country, Two Systems" political model, which promised that the former British colony's way of life would remain unchanged for 50 years after its handover. But a national security law imposed after pro-democracy protests in 2019 has seen dissent quashed, with scores of opposition figures arrested in an political crackdown.

The new Hong Kong government, to be sworn in on July 1, will be led by Mr. Lee, who oversaw the controversial police response to the democracy protests.

Mr. Lee on Saturday said he was delighted by the news of Mr. Xi's attendance and thanked the Chinese leader for his "caring and support" for Hong Kong. "Hong Kong is at the crucial stage of advancing from chaos to governance, and gradually towards prosperity," Mr. Lee said.

Iran-U.S. nuclear talks to resume soon, says EU

Need to get economic benefits: Tehran

REUTERS
DUBAI

Iran's indirect talks with the U.S. on reviving the 2015 nuclear pact will resume soon, the Iranian Foreign Minister said on Saturday amid a push by the European Union's top diplomat to break a months-long impasse in the negotiations.

"We are prepared to resume talks in the coming days. What is important for Iran is to fully receive the economic benefits of the 2015 accord," Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said, adding that he had held a "long but positive meeting" with EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell.

"We are expected to resume talks in the coming days and break the impasse. It has been three months and we need to accelerate the work. I am very happy about the decision that has been made in Tehran and Washington," Mr. Borrell told a televised news conference in Tehran.

The pact appeared close to being revived in March when the EU – which is coordinating negotiations – invited Foreign Ministers representing the accord's parties to Vienna to finalise an agreement after 11 months of indirect talks between Tehran and President Joe Biden's administration.

'Russia is trying to block Lysychansk'

Russian and separatist fighters pushing to cut off city from the south: Governor

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV

Russian forces are trying to cut off the strategic city of Lysychansk in eastern Ukraine, the Luhansk Governor said on Saturday, after the relentless assault on nearby Sievierodonetsk forced Ukrainian troops to begin withdrawing.

Russia also launched missile attacks on areas far from the heart of the eastern battles.

Serhiy Haidai, Governor of Luhansk province, said on Facebook that Russian and separatist fighters tried to blockade Lysychansk from the south. The city lies next to Sievierodonetsk, which has endured a relentless assault and house-to-house fighting for weeks.

A Ukrainian military vehicle on a road outside Lysychansk as Russian shelling continues in the city. • AFP

Russia's Interfax news agency quoted a spokesman for the separatist forces, Andrei Marochko, as saying Russian troops and separatist fighters had entered Lysychansk and that fighting was taking place in the heart of the city.

Lysychansk and Sievierodonetsk have been the focal point of a Russian offensive aimed at capturing all of eastern Ukraine's Donbas region and destroying the Ukrainian military defending it – the most capable and battle-hardened segment of the country's armed forces.

Some 1,000 km to the west, four Russian rockets hit a "military object" in Yaroviv, Lviv Governor Maksym Kozytskyy said. He did not give further details of the target, but Yaroviv has a sizable military base used for training fighters, including foreigners who have volunteered to fight for Ukraine.

In the north, about 20 rockets were fired from Belarus into the Chernihiv region, the Ukrainian military said.

Taliban call for more aid after deadly earthquake

Lift sanctions, unfreeze assets: Balkhi

REUTERS
KABUL

Afghanistan's Taliban administration called on international governments on Saturday to roll back sanctions and lift a freeze on central bank assets following the earthquake that killed more than 1,000 people and left thousands homeless this week.

The 6.1-magnitude quake that struck the east of the country on Wednesday damaged or destroyed 10,000 homes and also injured about 2,000 people, straining the country's fragile health system and posing a major test for the ruling Taliban.

"The Islamic Emirate is asking the world to give the Afghans their most basic right, which is their right to life and that is through lifting the sanctions and unfreezing our assets and also giving assistance," Abdul Qahar Balkhi, Foreign Affairs Ministry Spokesman, said.

Billions of dollars in Afghan central bank reserves remain frozen overseas and sanctions hamper the banking sector as the West pushes for concessions on human rights. Western governments are particularly concerned about the rights of women and girls to work and study.

Protesters decry U.S. abortion ruling

Doctors seek medical licences in States where the procedure could remain legal

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

Hundreds of protesters descended on the U.S. Supreme Court on Saturday to denounce the justice's decision to overturn the half-century-old *Roe v. Wade* precedent that recognised women's constitutional right to abortion.

The sweeping ruling by the court, with a 6-3 conservative majority, was set to vastly change American life, with nearly half the States considered certain or likely to ban abortion. Conservative Justice Clarence Thomas suggested the court's reasoning could also lead it to reconsider past rulings protecting the right to contraception, legalising gay marriage nationwide, and invalidating state laws banning gay sex.

The crowd featured both abortion opponents wearing T-shirts reading "I am the Pro-Life Generation" and abortion rights supporters chanting "my body, my choice."

Widening divide: People protesting in Portland after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down *Roe v. Wade* on Friday. • AFP

"The Supreme Court has made some terrible decisions," President Joe Biden said on Saturday.

'Long campaign'

Christian conservatives had long fought to overturn *Roe*, with Friday's ruling a cherished win that was the result of a long campaign to appoint anti-abortion justices to the top court. The ruling had the support of all three justices appointed by former President Donald Trump.

The ruling will likely influence voter behavior in the November 8 midterm elections, when Democrats face a high risk of losing their razor-thin majorities in the House of Representatives and possibly the Senate.

Some party leaders hope the decision will win over suburban swing voters, though activists expressed disappointment and demoralisation at suffering such a defeat while their party held total power in Washington.

"They can ask for vote for more power but don't they already have the Congress and the White House?" said Patricia Smith, a 24-year-old supporter of abortion rights.

The case that led to Friday's decision revolved around a Mississippi law that bans most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, before the foetus is a viable outside the womb.

Jennifer Kerns, a California physician, will soon be practising 2,896 km away at an abortion clinic in Kansas, where women from nearby States with bans on the procedure are expected to seek care. Abortion clinics and providers say Ms. Kerns is among dozens of doctors who have recently sought new medical licences in States where abortion could remain legal, anticipating Friday's Court decision.

SDS TRC & Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases
(An Autonomous Institute, Government of Karnataka)
(Reg. No.SOR/BLU/DR/671/09-10 Dtd:23.09.2009)
Someshwarnagar 1st Main, DRC Post, Near NIMHANS, Bengaluru-560029.
Ph.: 080-26088571/E21/667 email:sdstbrgicd@gmail.com, director.rgicd@gmail.com

No.SDS/TENDER/04/05/2022-23 Date:- 22.06.2022

Tender Notification (e-Procurement)

Sub:- Tender for Outsourcing of Manpower & Security Services through e-procurement at SDS TRC & RGICD, Bengaluru.

Tenders are invited through e-procurement for outsourcing of Manpower and Security services from reputed outsourcing agencies through e procurement. Tender schedule is hereunder.

Tender Notification	Security Tender SDS/TENDER/ 05/2022-23	Manpower Tender SDS/TENDER/ 04/2022-23
Commencement of download of e- Tender form from e-procurement portal	27.06.2022	27.06.2022
Date for Pre-Bid Meeting/ Queries	04.07.2022 at 11.00 am	04.07.2022 at 11.30 am
Last Date for uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform on or before	20.07.2022 Upto 05.00 pm	20.07.2022 Upto 05.00 pm
Opening of Technical Bid	22.07.2022 at 11.30 am	22.07.2022 at 11.30 am
EMD	Rs.1,00,000=00	Rs.1,00,000=00

DIPR/CP/1030/KLAKNANDA/2022-23

Sd/-
Director, SDS TRC & RGICD

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Bangalore Rural, Beerasandra, Devanahalli Taluk,
Ph No.: 080-29787463 Email-Id: eerdwsd.bngr1@gmail.com

No. EE/RDW&Sanitation Division/BR/TB/Tender22-23/315
Date: 24.06.2022

E-Procurement Short-Term Tender Notification No. 05/2022-23 Date: 24.06.2022

(Only through e-procurement portal)

Tenders are invited on behalf of Governer of Karnataka according to KTPP Act 2000 through E-procurement Portal for the works under 2021-22 2215 H/A under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to **Provide FHTCs to House Holds in Bengaluru Rural District** (Standard Tender Document KW-2, KW-3) Application & EMD Payment to be done through E-Procurement Portal.

General conditions: (1) Contractor has to upload Document through online only (2) All qualifying documents has to be attached online.

(1) Tender Schedule can be downloaded from website: **After 4.00 p.m.** on **27.06.2022. (2)** Last date for tender uploading: **Up to 4.00 p.m.** on **12.07.2022. (3)** Date of opening of Tender / Technical Bid: **At 4.05 p.m.** on **13.07.2022. (4)** Date of opening of Financial Bid: **At 11.00 a.m.** on **18.07.2022.**

More details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned and also through **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** by clicking **List of Tenders** which will link to all Dept. works list.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
RDW&S Division, Bengaluru Rural.

DIPR/DD-C.P/1064/MCA/2022-23

Shanghai reports zero COVID cases

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

China reported zero COVID-19 infections in Shanghai for the first time since March on Saturday, as the country's latest outbreak subsides after months of lockdowns.

China is the last major economy still committed to a zero-COVID strategy, stamping out new cases with a combination of targeted lockdowns, mass testing and lengthy quarantines. In Beijing, restrictions first imposed in May were eased as cases declined, but tightened again this month after a nightlife-linked infection cluster emerged.

Biden signs landmark gun control measure, says 'lives will be saved'

The law will toughen background checks for younger buyers

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden on Saturday signed the most sweeping gun violence Bill in decades, a bipartisan compromise that seemed unimaginable until a recent series of mass shootings, including the massacre of 19 students and two teachers at a Texas elementary school.

"Time is of the essence. Lives will be saved," he said. Citing the families of shooting victims, the President said, "Their message to us was, 'Do something.' How many times did we hear that? 'Just do something. For God's sake, just do something.' Today we did."

Joe Biden

The House gave final approval on Friday, following Senate passage on Thursday, and Mr. Biden acted just before leaving Washington for two summits in Europe.

"Today we say, 'More than enough,'" Mr. Biden said. "It's time, when it seems impossible to get anything done in Washington, we are doing something consequential."

The legislation will toughen background checks for the youngest gun buyers, keep firearms from more domestic violence offenders and help States put in place "red flag" laws that make it easier for authorities to take weapons from people adjudged to be dangerous.

The President called it "a historic achievement."

Most of its $13 billion cost will help bolster mental health programmes and aid schools, which have been targeted in mass shootings.

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender Notice No. E-125-ST-P-NGP-Md-El-DGG Dated 16.06.2022
Name of the Work: Complete Design & Drawing, Supply of Critical Materials, Excavation of Trenches, Laying of Signaling, Quad Cable, OFC and Power Cables, Casting of Foundation & Erection of Apparatus Cases, Junction Boxes, Signals, Installation of MSDAC, Point Machine, Relays, Track Circuits, Battery Charging, EKT / KLCR, Termination of OFC, 6 Quad Cable, Signal and Telecom Cables, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of STM, MUX, Charger Battery Bank etc. and Supply of Telecom Gears, Modification of IPS and Track Circuit, Data Logger including necessary modification of existing Electronic Interlocking System distributed type (Hitachi Make) for provision of Additional Loop line at Dongargarh Station, Nagpur Division of South East Central Railway.
Tender Value: ₹ 1,24,03,130.55 (Rs. One Crore Twenty Four Lakhs Three Thousand One Hundred Thirty and Paise Fifty Five only), **Bid Security (Earnest Money):** ₹ 2,12,000/-, (Rs. Two Lakhs Twelve Thousand only), **Closing of Tender:** On **11.07.2022** at **15:00** Hours.
For further details, please visit our website http://**www.ireps.gov.in**.

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Project),
S.E.C. Railway, Nagpur

CPR/1032 South East Central Railway @secrail

Government of Maharashtra
PUBLIC WORKS (TRIBAL) DIVISION, AMRAVATI.
E-Tender Notice No. 07/2022-2023
(Outer No. 1388/PWTD/TENDER/DATE:-16/06/2022)

ADDRESS:- Executive Engineer, Public Work (Tribal) Division, Near by Tapovan Gate, Amravati.
E-mail:- eetribal.amt@gmail.com **Telehone No. (0721) 2668079**
The Executive Engineer, Public Work (Tribal) Division, Near by Tapovan Gate, Amravati, invites e-tenders for following works, in B-1 form, through e-tendering process. **Only Class 1-C & Above P.W.(Tribal). Division, registered Contractors only. registered in appropriate class with P.W.(Tribal). Division. of Maharashtra Govt. can only participate in tendering process.** The tenders document can be downloaded from Government **website:- http://mahatenders.gov.in.**

Right to accept or reject tenders is reserved with Executive Engineer, Public Work (Tribal) Division, Amravati. The contractor also must submit one hard copy of envelop with name of Contractor & name of work written on envelop, should be submit within 72 hours of closure of the bid. Conditional tender will not be accepted.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Bid Download period	Last Date of Bid Submission	Date Bid opening	Eligible Contractor
1	PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL BUILDING (G+2) AT. EKALAVYA RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL CAMPUS BOTONI, TQ. MAREGAON, DIST. YAVATMAL.	11,19,90,599/-	27/06/2022 to 22/07/2022	22/07/2022	26/07/2022	Class- 1-C & Above P.W. (Tribal). Division. registered Contractors only

Note:- Work Order of this work will be issued after availability of funds.
(Time, Date & Venue of Pre Bid Conferen - 14/07/2022 @ 12:00 Hrs in the office of the Chief Engineer, Works Management Cell, Tribal Development Department, South Wing, Third Floor, Bandhkam Bhavan, Murzban Road, Fort, Mumbai. Online Further information regarding online meeting Contact this Office)

All information regarding e-tendering is available on following website-
1. http://mahapwd.com,
2. http://mahatenders.gov.in
(Any change in tender notice will be publised on above website only.)
3. Notice board O/O The Executive Engineer, Public Work Division (Tribal), Amravati.

(Shrikant V. Awandkar)
Executive Engineer,
Public Work (Tribal) Division.
Amravati.

DGIPR/2022/2023/1490

SNAPSHOTS

Raising hopes
An isolated population of 27 polar bears has been discovered in southeast Greenland, which is free of sea ice for most part of the year. Polar bears typically need sea ice to survive, so the discovery is raising hopes that some polar bears might survive in the absence of ice. They have adapted to hunting on glacial mélange.

Tracking bugs
The deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) of more than 1,200 species of invertebrates were found on samples of tea and dried herbs. The traces of environmental DNA, which organisms shed as they walked across, chewed on or otherwise interacted with the leaves, can help understand how insect populations have changed.

COP15 in Canada
The United Nations (UN) has announced that a pivotal summit to finalise a new global agreement on protecting the environment will go ahead in December this year, after a two-year delay due to COVID-19 pandemic. The 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, will move from Kunming in China to Montreal, Canada.

Gentler sonar
Scientists at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency in the United States are working to replace whale-harming sonar with the ambient sounds made by aquatic creatures. The low-frequency booms of giant goliath groupers (*Epinephelus itajara*) and the super-loud snaps of pistol shrimp are among the sounds being considered.

Aerosol study shows how SARS-CoV-2 spreads

The researchers studied air samples from hospital and residential zones and proximity to infected persons

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

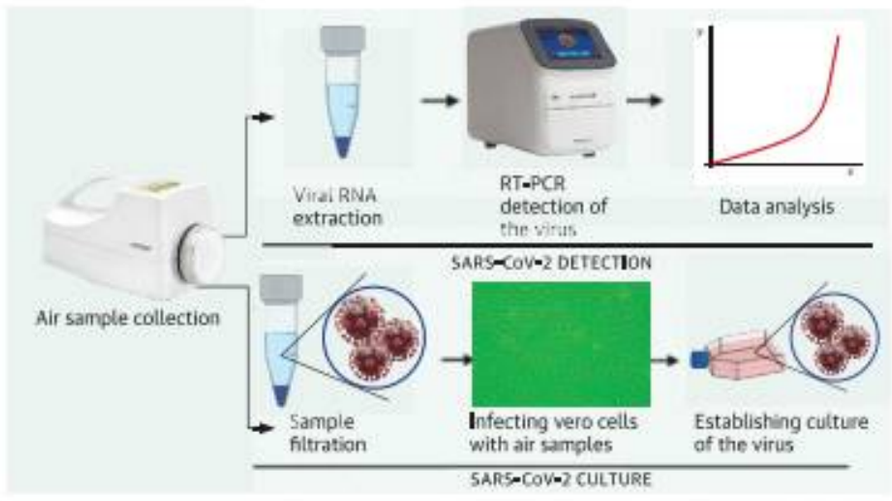
The transmission of SARS-CoV-2 through the air has been studied at various places around the world. Researchers led by those at CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad, and Tata institute for Genetics and Society (TIGS), Bengaluru carried out a study to get further insight into the transmission characteristics of the novel coronavirus in air in hospital settings and in residential areas and public places. The study, published in *Journal of Aerosol Science*, gives insights that are quite in keeping with common-sensical notions and underline the importance of masks in comparison with mere physical distancing.

Gauging virulence
A machine, which sucks in air, similar to a vacuum cleaner, fitted with a filter on which a gel was spread was taken and worked in the target areas. After running the machine for long durations stretching to an hour or two, samples collected from the filter were either used to carry out an RT-PCR test to determine the presence of the virus, or were cultured by infecting vero cells in the lab. The latter was done to find out if the collected virus samples were infectious.

The researchers saw the virus in samples collected from COVID-19 wards. Outside, in the corridors and near the hospitals they did not detect it, implying a dilution or removal of the virus.

"Having separate COVID-19 wards and negative pressure rooms are good, because infection does not spread very far," says Dr. Rakesh Mishra, Director, Tata institute for Genetics and Society (TIGS), Bengaluru, who led the study.

Negative pressure rooms are isolation wards in hospitals to keep persons with infectious diseases.



Not mere proximity
The researchers detected the virus even 20-25 feet away from infected persons. "This means it is in the air for quite some time. That is why this study confirms that this virus is spreading through air. It is not only with close proximity but also it can hang in the air for quite some time in the droplets," says Dr. Mishra.

Samples taken from air from toilets also showed presence of the virus. The group detected the virus when they sampled the air in the toilet even two hours after an infected person had used it. The study implies that when using public toilets, masks should not be removed, even if no one is present.

"The virus can hang in the air for close to two hours after an infected person has used the toilet. It is very risky if someone enters the toilet, sees no one there and removes the mask," he adds.

Sterilising rooms
The study further observes that in a closed space, physical distancing alone is not helpful, because the virus borne on droplets can travel upto 20-25 feet. "Thus, in a hall where there is poor circulation, and if some people are infected, you have to keep the mask on even if you are 6-10 feet away from that person," explains Dr. Mishra.

The study thus established that a lot of the (SARS-CoV-2) infection is due to the movement of the virus particles in droplets through the air. It can hang for several hours, and go up to several metres. Air cleaning and circulation in closed rooms is very important. Sterilisation filters may be employed for air conditioning.

Challenges in sampling
Some of the challenges in conducting this study were to do with the location of the sampling. "The problem was that people were not allowing us to sample in the hospitals... [they were concerned perhaps that] the personnel may get disturbed and leave. We then had to talk to people who were scientific and carry out our sampling there. That is why in the paper, several hospitals are listed in author affiliations," says Dr. Mishra.

The second challenge was in estimating the virus in the filters, because it had not been used for this purpose earlier. The researchers had to modify the methods a bit, and they are writing about it in a forthcoming paper.

Thirdly, there are a lot of variations due to the dynamics of the air from which the samples had to be collected, so the researchers had to repeat measurements several times in order to not miss out positives.

Every reinfection increases the risk to health

The study highlights the importance of preventing reinfection with SARS-CoV-2

R. PRASAD

A recent study has turned on its head the notion that getting naturally infected with SARS-CoV-2 virus would provide more protection from future infections. The study has found the complete opposite – a previous infection makes the next infection(s) worse. The study has been posted as a preprint in *Research Square*, which is yet to be peer-reviewed.

Compared with vaccination, first infection with SARS-CoV-2 virus is associated with increased risk of adverse health outcomes in pulmonary and extrapulmonary organ systems, hospitalisation and even death. And reinfection contributes to additional risk of deaths and adverse health outcomes in the pulmonary and several extrapulmonary organ systems, the study found.

Caution: A previous infection can make the next infection worse. • THE HINDU

Persistence of risks
"The risks were evident in those who were unvaccinated, had one shot, or two or more shots prior to the second infection; the risks were most pronounced in the acute phase, but persisted in the post-acute phase of reinfection, and most were still evident at six months after reinfection," a three-member team led by Dr. Ziyad Al-Aly from the Washington University School of Medicine, U.S., says in the preprint.

The study was based on national health care databases of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs that included people with no infection (53,96,855), with one infection (2,57,427), and two or more reinfections (38,926).

Among those with reinfection, 36,417 (12.29%) people had two infections, 2,263 (0.76%) people had three infections, and 246 (0.08%) people had four or more infections.

The study found that compared with those with first infection, people with reinfection had an elevated risk (hazard ratio or HR 2.14) of all-cause mortality. There was also increased risk of hospitalisation (HR 2.98) and at least one sequela of SARS-CoV-2 infection (HR 1.82) among people with a reinfection.

Compared to those with first infection, those with reinfection exhibited increased risk of sequelae – cardiovascular disorders (HR 2.36), hematologic disorders (HR 2.22), fatigue (HR 2.4), gastrointestinal disorders (HR 1.69), kidney disorders (HR 1.70), diabetes (HR 1.62), musculoskeletal disorders (HR 1.29), and neurologic disorders (HR 1.39).

Cumulative risk
"The risks were most pronounced in the acute phase, but persisted in the post-acute phase of reinfection, and risks for most sequelae were still evident at six months," they write. "Compared to non-infected controls, assessment of the cumulative risks of repeated infection showed that the risk and burden of all-cause mortality and the prespecified health outcomes increased in a graded fashion according to the number of infections."

Compared with the Delta variant, the Omicron variant that first caused a wave in almost all countries beginning late-December last year was perceived to be mild in people who were fully vaccinated and/or infected.

The BA.5 Omicron sub-lineage that is currently spreading to many countries is more transmissive than the BA.1 sub-lineage and is also causing more hospitalisations and even deaths in Portugal, which has a very high percentage of the population fully vaccinated and even boosted.

"There was a popular narrative that after surviving COVID-19, the next infection will be milder. Anecdotal experience had however shown that's not the case. Many people have said that their second bout was worse, while others have said it was mild," Dr. Rajeev Jayadevan, Co-Chairman, National IMA COVID Task Force tells *The Hindu*.

"Now, this study has confirmed that with every subsequent bout of COVID-19, there are additional and cumulative health problems. In other words, it is not necessarily going to be a common cold the next time around. The SARS-CoV-2 virus is not a common cold virus, it can repeatedly affect organs such as blood vessels, immune system, heart, brain and the lungs. It has shown that it can infect people who were unvaccinated, vaccinated or boosted," he adds.

Prevention is key
Unlike what was believed early during the pandemic, neither herd immunity using the currently available vaccines nor eliminating the virus seem possible. The emergence of highly transmissive variants endowed with greater immune escape makes the task of preventing reinfections a challenge. Currently available vaccines cannot protect against reinfection.

"The totality of evidence suggests that prevention strategies of reinfection might benefit people regardless of prior history of infection and vaccination status," they write.

"Although it is true that the chance of severe outcomes is smaller among those with prior immune memory either from vaccination or past infection, when a large number of people undergo frequent reinfections, it can be expected that several of them will have bad outcomes," Dr. Jayadevan says.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus is here to stay and the threat posed by the virus will remain for years. Public health measures, particularly non-pharmaceutical interventions such as mask wearing, better ventilation, and use of air filters to name a few need to be embraced to reduce the risk of virus spread.

Typhoid: S. Typhi is more drug-resistant

The antibiotic-resistant bacteria has spread globally nearly 200 times

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The bacteria causing typhoid fever is becoming increasingly resistant to some of the most important antibiotics for human health, according to a study published in *The Lancet Microbe* journal.

The largest genome analysis of *Salmonella Typhi* (S. Typhi) also shows that resistant strains – almost all originating in South Asia – have spread to other countries nearly 200 times since 1990.

The researchers noted that typhoid fever is a global public health concern, causing 11 million infections and more than 1,00,000 deaths per year.

Antibiotics can be used to successfully treat typhoid fever infections, but their effectiveness is threatened by the emergence of resistant S. Typhi strains.

"The speed at which highly-resistant strains of S. Typhi have emerged and spread in recent years is a real cause for concern, and highlights the need to urgently expand prevention measures, particularly in countries at greatest risk," said study lead author, Jason Andrews, from Stanford University, United States.

"At the same time, the fact that resistant strains of S. Typhi have spread internationally so many times also underscores the need to view typhoid control, and antibiotic resistance more generally, as a global rather than local problem," Mr. Andrews said.

In the new study, the researchers performed whole-genome sequencing on 3,489 S. Typhi isolates obtained from blood samples collected between 2014 and 2019 from people in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan with confirmed cases of typhoid fever. A collection of 4,169 S. Typhi samples isolated from more than 70 countries between 1905 and 2018 was also included in the analysis.

The authors traced the presence of genes conferring resistance to macrolides and quinolones, which are among the most critically important antibiotics for human health. The analysis shows resistant S. Typhi strains have spread between countries at least 197 times since 1990. While these strains most often occurred within South Asia and from South Asia to Southeast Asia and Southern Africa, they have also been reported in the U.K., the U.S., and Canada, the researchers said.

Fighting the type 2 diabetes pandemic

Rice eaters can include wheat, maize, high-protein grains, and vegetables in their daily diet

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

The International Diabetes Foundation estimates that 537 million people across the world are afflicted with diabetes. The site in the United States points out that over 37 million people (about 10%) in the United States are diabetic. There are two types of diabetes – Type 1 and Type 2.

Types of diabetes
Type 1 is generally genetic in origin, and is easier handled by taking the molecule insulin. Injection of insulin helps your body use the sugar in your blood for the energy it needs, and then store the rest in the liver and other organs for future use. Type 2 diabetes, which does not need insulin injection, is largely lifestyle-based, and is seen more among people in the urban areas than in rural populations.

Type 2 diabetes is age-related; it often develops at the age of 45 and beyond. Type 1 diabetes is largely genetic in nature, while Type 2 depends on the lifestyle of the individual. Pioneering research work from the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF) has shown that Type 2 diabetes, which does not always need external insulin, is largely lifestyle-based, and is higher in prevalence (11.6%) among the urban populations than (2.4%) in the rural areas (*Journal of Indian Medical Association, 2002*).

Huge disease burden
While this study from the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF) is largely based in South India, a paper by Sadikot and coworkers in *Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice* has studied 18,000 people across 77 centres across India. They estimate 4.3% of the total Indian population to suffer from diabetes, 5.9 % of the urban population and 2.7% of the rural population.

Keep it at bay: Type 2 diabetes can be prevented through healthy diet and physical exercise. • GETTY IMAGES

An Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-funded study has estimated that there are about 77 million diabetic patients across India today.

There are some ways to fight against, or delay diabetes. As staple food, it is best to consume a high-fibre diet, with low carbohydrate intake. The MDRF offers one such high-fibre rice. While rice is the staple food in most parts of South India, people in the North are wheat eaters.

Wheat has higher fibre content, more proteins, calcium and minerals. And the rice we use is 'white' or polished with no husk and bran. (On an aside, recall how Mahatma Gandhi advised us not to use polished rice).

It would thus be healthier for rice eaters to include wheat in their food, plus high-protein grains, maize, carrots, cabbage, pulses and vegetables in their daily diets.

For non-vegetarians, eggs, fish and mutton included in the diet offer high fibre and proteins.

Preventable
Is Type 2 Diabetes preventable? The study from Harvard University, United States says yes. The individual needs to lose small amount of weight, eat a healthy diet, reduce total carbon intake in the food, and do physical exercise regularly. Exercise smarter, not longer. Consider high intensity exercise such as power walking for 10 minutes regularly, and also do breathing exercises, as in meditation.

Indeed, our physiotherapists and Ayurvedic practitioners too, advise deep breathing and regular exercises.

Ten exercises
The site heathline.com lists as many as 10 different exercises that will be useful for people who are pre-diabetic, or prone to Type 2 diabetes, or getting to be senior citizens. Of the 10, some are easily done without any need to go to a gymnasium. The first exercise is to walk: go for a brisk 30-minute-walk five times a week, or even more often. Several diabetologists suggest that such brisk walking can be done even at home daily.

The second is cycling. This can be done in a nearby school campus, or the city park. Cycling for 10 minutes a day is very beneficial. Indeed, cycling can be done even at home by putting the cycle on stand, and cycling for ten minutes at home.

The third is weight-lifting. Here again, your own home can be a gym. Lift heavy objects (5 kg or even 8-10 kg, but do check with your doctor) such as filled water buckets, other household stuff. Doing this daily or on alternate days will be helpful.

The above site lists several other exercises such as swimming, calisthenics and so on, but we have listed only those which can be easily done by families at home or nearby.

Benefits of yoga
But one that is mentioned among the 10 exercises is yoga, which is of particular interest to Indians.

A systematic review of controlled trials (*Journal of Diabetes Research*) says that yoga may lower oxidative stress, and improve mood, sleep and quality of life. It also reduces medication use in adults with Type 2.

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Question Corner

Black Death

Where did the Black Death pandemic originate?

The Black Death, the biggest pandemic of our history, was caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis* and lasted in Europe between the years 1346 and 1353. Despite the pandemic's immense demographic and societal impacts, its origins have long been elusive. Researchers have now obtained and studied ancient *Y. pestis* genomes that trace the pandemic's origins to Central Asia.

The origins of the Second Plague Pandemic have long been debated. One of the most popular theories has supported its source in East Asia, specifically in China. To the contrary, the only so-far available archaeological findings come from Central Asia, close to Lake Issyk Kul, in what is now Kyrgyzstan.

An international team of researchers analysed ancient DNA from human remains as well as historical and archaeological data from two sites that were found to contain "pestilence" inscriptions (*Science*).

The team pieced together complete ancient plague genomes from the sites in Kyrgyzstan. "We found that the ancient strains from Kyrgyzstan are positioned exactly at the node of this massive diversification event. We found the Black Death's source strain and we even know its exact date – 1338," Maria Spyrou from the University of Tübingen said in a release.

They also found that the ancient Central Asian strain that caused the 1338-1339 epidemic around Lake Issyk Kul must have come from plague reservoirs around the Tian Shan mountains, close to where the ancient strain was found. This points to an origin of Black Death's ancestor in Central Asia.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Bird's-eye view: An aerial shot of the flood-affected areas in Assam. • PTI

Extreme weather

What accounts for the deficit in some areas and the excess rainfall in Assam this monsoon?

RAHUL KARMARKAR

The story so far: Assam received 1,891.9 mm of rainfall from March 1 to June 24, just 347.5 mm less than the annual precipitation the State receives. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Assam's annual normal rainfall between 1961 and 2010 has been 2,239.4 mm. The outcome has been devastating. A total of 117 people have died since April, 17 of them in landslides. An arterial railway track linking southern Assam, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura has been washed away, 55 lakh people have been affected across more than 5,000 villages and a town, Silchar, has been flooded for more than a week. At least 38 people have died in flash floods and landslides in Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya since April. Meteorologists and climate change specialists attribute the high pre-monsoon and monsoon rains to several factors.

How has the monsoon been so far this year?

■ The country received 2% less rain this year than it usually does between June 1 and June 23 every year. The total rainfall was brought down by 34% over central India and 15% over peninsular India compared to the 32% more received by the east and northeast and 7% more by northwest India. According to the IMD, the rain deficiency – private forecaster Skymet pegs the deficit at 4% till now – is expected to be overcome by the first week of July. During the monsoons, whenever moisture-laden southerly or south-westerly winds from the Bay of Bengal hit the region's east-west oriented mountain ranges, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Meghalaya receive more rainfall in comparison to other States of the north-eastern region. Meteorologists said the recent episode of heavy rainfall underlined the presence of the east-west trough in the lower levels of the atmosphere over the region and the incursion of large-scale moisture due to strong southerly and south-westerly winds from the Bay of Bengal.

According to the IMD, Assam received 41% above normal rainfall during the pre-monsoon season (March to May), and 71% more than normal rainfall up to June 25, unlike in the previous years

What are the factors determining rainfall pattern?

■ Assam, which receives rainfall beyond the June-September monsoon phase, does not always get above-normal or excess rain. But this year, according to the IMD, it received 41% above normal rainfall during the pre-monsoon season (March to May), and it has received 71% more than normal rainfall up to June 25. A 2018 study based on IMD data conducted by Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology revealed that the State had been witnessing a significant decreasing trend in the average monsoon rainfall since 1870 while experiencing sudden downpour days leading to frequent flooding. It found that the average rainfall deficiency was 5.95 mm per decade between 1981 and 2016. A 2017 study published in the *International Journal of Current Microbiology and Applied Sciences* said Assam's valleys experience both excessive and insufficient rainfall from time to time "due to ecological and climate difference from one place to another". Climate change is said to have increased the water and surface temperature of the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal by up to 2 degrees, causing the frequent formation of low-pressure areas and cyclonic circulations, resulting in heavy rains. A recent study by the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati said aerosols, including black carbon, released by biomass burning, influence the western part of northeast India close to the Indo-Gangetic Plain the most. Rising black carbon emissions, it said, leads to a decrease in low-intensity rainfall while pushing up severe rain in the pre-monsoon season in northeast India.

Was the monsoon late this year?

■ The seasonal monsoon winds are an extremely complex and intricate combination of physical processes that operate not only in the atmosphere but also involve land and ocean. In India, June 1 is regarded as the date of arrival of the monsoon, which accounts for about 80% of the rainfall in the country. The monsoon landed early in Kerala this year, three days ahead of the normal date of June 1, but then it turned sluggish on its western branch's upward journey. But if central India suffered a deficit, the east and north-eastern parts battled a diametrically opposite problem – excess rain – leading to widespread floods in Assam and Meghalaya. Historically, June rainfall is patchy and contributes less than 18% of the total monsoon rainfall. The key monsoon months are July and August and they bring nearly two-thirds of the monsoon rains. The most important synoptic disturbances during the monsoons over India are disturbances (lows, depressions, etc.) that form mostly over the Bay of Bengal, move westwards or west north-westwards along the monsoon trough, and produce a large volume of rainfall. The other synoptic disturbance which affects monsoon rainfall significantly is the position of offshore trough or vortex along the west coast of India. Monsoon in India is known to be affected by global phenomena such as El Nino or La Nina – large-scale warming or cooling events of the sea surface. Other factors such as the Indian Ocean Dipole and Madden-Julian Oscillation also influence monsoon rainfall.

With inputs from Jacob Koshy

Has the anti-defection law failed in India?

What do developments in Maharashtra, and earlier in other States, say about its efficacy?

K. VENKATARAMANAN

The story so far: Maharashtra is in the throes of a constitutional crisis. Many ruling Shiv Sena legislators who seem to have revolted against the leadership of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray are now holed up in a hotel in distant Guwahati to keep out of the reach of party leaders. Their travel to Guwahati, via Surat, seems to have been facilitated by the BJP, the ruling party in Gujarat and Assam. All indications are that there is a planned mass defection underway so that an alternative regime that includes the BJP is formed in the State.

Isn't there a law against such defection?

■ The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, commonly known as the anti-defection law, was introduced in 1985 with a view to curb the tendency among legislators to switch loyalties from one party to another and facilitate the toppling of regimes and formation of new ones. It provides for the Presiding Officer of the legislature to disqualify any defector on a petition by another member. The law contemplates two kinds of defection: (a) by a member voluntarily giving up membership of the party on whose symbol he got elected (b) by a member violating a direction (whip) issued by his party to vote in a particular way or to abstain from voting.

While voting contrary to the party's whip is quite a straightforward instance of defection, the other mode of defection has proved to be a source of dispute and litigation. A member 'voluntarily giving up membership' does not refer to a simple resignation letter and formally joining another party. It is often an inference drawn by the party that loses a member to another based on the legislator's conduct. The Supreme Court has also ruled that 'voluntarily giving up membership' can be inferred from the conduct of a person.

How do the MLAs plan to avoid disqualification?

■ The Shiv Sena has 55 members in the Maharashtra Assembly. Eknath Shinde, who leads the rebel group, claims that he has 40 MLAs with him, but the figure may include Independents. The group may claim to be the 'real Shiv Sena' and seek to 'expel' the current leadership. As a legal defence, they may invoke Paragraph 4 of the Tenth Schedule, under which disqualification on account of defection will not apply in case of a merger of one party with another. However, there is a rider. There is a deemed merger only if two-thirds of the party's total strength agrees to the merger. In Maharashtra, the rebel group will need to have 37 MLAs to make the claim that they constitute two-thirds of the legislature party. However, it remains to be seen if the Deputy Speaker (the Speaker's office is vacant), initially, and then the law courts will recognise such a 'merger'. Disqualification proceedings have already been initiated against some of them.

Originally, the 10th Schedule had spoken of a 'split' in a legislature party as an exception to the disqualification rule. That is if one-thirds of a legislature party leaves it or joins another party, it amounts to a 'split' and such members would not attract disqualification. This proved to be an escape clause for legislators to form a group that amounted to one-third of the legislature party's total strength and then cross over. Paragraph 3, which allowed the use of a split to avoid disqualification for defection, was deleted by the Constitution (91st Amendment) Act, 2003.

How foolproof is this plan?

■ It remains to be seen if the defectors will get away by using the 'merger' argument. In a recent instance, the Bombay High Court at Goa ruled in favour of MLAs who had defected from the Congress to the BJP in Goa. The court noted that they satisfied the two-thirds requirement for a deemed merger and ruled that they were exempted from disqualification. The Congress has appealed to the Supreme Court.

As defections continue unabated and Speakers refrain from acting on these developments based on their political loyalties, there is a strong case to reform the anti-defection law, according to experts

The main ground of appeal is that the Court should not have accepted the existence of a merger, as the merger envisaged in Para 4 of the 10th Schedule is a two-step process under which one political party first merges with another, and then the legislators accept the merger. In the absence of a merger of the parties, the mere fact that two-thirds of the MLAs cross over to the other party does not save them from disqualification.

In a similar case in Meghalaya, the Speaker recognised as a 'merger' the crossover of 12 Congress MLAs out of a total of 17 to the Trinamool Congress and refused to disqualify them.

The Supreme Court may have to adjudicate whether an actual merger is a condition precedent for bringing into play the 'deemed fiction' of a merger after two-thirds of a party's legislators cross over.

Does the 10th Schedule mean anything?

■ This brings us to the question whether the anti-defection law has been rendered meaningless by various events. What was introduced as a panacea for the menace of floor-crossing and toppling of elected regimes by engineering defections has proved largely ineffective in many cases. Recent instances give an idea of the various ploys adopted by parties, legislators and Speakers to either evade the law against defection or to achieve partisan political ends.

The most common these days is for a ruling party with a big majority to poach the main Opposition parties without any regard for the anti-defection law. When the aggrieved party moves for disqualification, Speakers choose not to act, thus formalising the defection.

In Manipur, for instance, seven Congress MLAs joined the BJP shortly after the 2017 Assembly election and one of them became a Minister too. However, the Speaker did not act on petitions to disqualify the Minister for over two years. In January 2020, the Supreme Court directed the Speaker to dispose of the matter within four weeks. As the Speaker passed no order even long after the deadline, the Court invoked its extraordinary powers to remove T. Shyamkumar Singh, the Minister concerned, from the Cabinet and barred him from entering the Assembly. Opposition members have crossed over to the ruling party in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in large numbers in recent years, but did not suffer disqualification.

In Karnataka, in 2010, a group of BJP rebels against then Chief Minister B. S. Yeddyurappa met the Governor to express their resentment against his continuance in office and sought a 'constitutional process' to be initiated. The Speaker subsequently disqualified them on the ground that their action in meeting the Governor amounted to voluntarily giving up their membership. However, the Supreme Court ultimately set aside their disqualification on procedural grounds – they were not given sufficient time to file their replies and were not given advance copies of material relied upon by the Speaker.

In an attempt to capitalise on this precedent, a group of AIADMK MLAs revolted against Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami in 2017 and met the Governor seeking a similar 'constitutional process' against him. The Speaker disqualified 18 MLAs for 'voluntarily giving up membership' of the party which had fielded them as candidates. However, the Madras High Court by a 2:1 majority, upheld the disqualification. Though facts were similar to the developments in Karnataka, the High Court was of the view that there was nothing unreasonable or perverse in the Speaker coming to the conclusion from the MLAs' conduct that they were seeking to topple the regime.

In 2019, one saw the spectacle of some members submitting resignation letters to escape disqualification proceedings, while the Speaker questioned the voluntariness and motive behind the resignations. 'Defection through resignation' became a thing suddenly. The Supreme Court ultimately ruled that the Speaker has the authority to verify if a resignation is voluntary and genuine, but it is constitutionally impermissible for the Speaker to take into account extraneous factors while considering the resignation. In other words, once it is clear that a member is resigning out of free will, the Speaker is bound to accept it.

As defections continue unabated and Speakers refrain from acting on these developments based on their political loyalties, there is a strong case to reform the anti-defection law.

Redefining the merger clause, shifting the adjudicatory power from the Speaker to some other credible authority and even dispensing wholly with the law are measures that jurists have suggested.

Some believe that the anti-defection law should be scrapped as it enslaves members to their party line, prevents them from representing their constituents and the people, and violates their freedom of expression.

Internal churning: Supporters of rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde outside the party office at Hanuman Nagar in Thane on June 23. • PTI

How will the *Roe* rollback impact women?

What are the implications of the U.S. top court overturning a 1973 judgment on the right to abortion?

SUDIPTA DATTA

The story so far: The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday ended the constitutional right to abortion, overturning the landmark 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that had enshrined a woman's right to her body. In its ruling, the Conservative-dominated SCOTUS (Supreme Court of the United States) said, "The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion;... and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives." The 6-3 verdict echoed a draft opinion leaked in early May claiming that the SCOTUS would vote to strike down the right to abortion. Also overturned on Friday, was *Planned Parenthood vs Casey*, a 1992 case that upheld *Roe*. While anti-abortionists led by former President Donald Trump cheered the judgment, pro-choice advocates and women's rights bodies decried the move, calling it a "horrifying decision with devastating consequences." According to the Guttmacher Institute, an abortion rights advocacy research group, 26 states (of the 50) are certain or likely to ban abortion; and in at least 13 states, the ban comes into effect quickly.

How did it come about?

■ The *Roe v. Wade* judgment had struck down state-level abortion limits on a foetus before it is viable to survive outside the womb, which is considered to be the 24-28 week mark. On Friday, writing for the majority in the *Dobbs vs Jackson Women's Health Organisation*, Justice Samuel Alito, a conservative appointed by George W. Bush, said: "We hold that *Roe* and *Casey* must be overruled. The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision, including the one on which the defenders of *Roe* and *Casey* – now chiefly rely – the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment." The Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment protects among other things, the right to marry, the right to use contraception and the right to abortion.

In 1969, a resident of Texas, Norma McCorvey, sought an abortion when she was five months pregnant and went to court because at that time the state of Texas had a ban on abortions except when it could be carried out to save a mother's life. The pseudonym picked for her was Jane Roe, and it was called *Roe v. Wade* after the district attorney in Dallas, Henry Wade, the defendant in the case. In 1973, when the case reached the Supreme Court on appeal, SCOTUS ruled 7-2 to recognise abortion as a constitutional right in the U.S.

In protest: Abortion rights activists after the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* by the U.S. Supreme Court on June 24. • AFP

The UN sexual and reproductive health agency and the World Health Organization noted that a staggering 45% of all abortions around the world are unsafe, making the procedure a leading cause of maternal death

Following the *Roe v. Wade* judgment, there was a right to abortion in the first three months (trimester) of pregnancy; some limitations were placed in the second trimester; and in the third trimester, states could restrict or ban abortions as the foetus neared the point where it could live outside the womb except for cases in which the life and health of the mother were endangered. Later, in the 1992 *Planned Parenthood vs Casey* case, the SCOTUS rejected the 'trimester' system, but retained *Roe*'s "essential holding," which established women's constitutional right to abortions until the foetus was viable to live outside the womb.

There are nine judges in the U.S. Supreme Court, six of whom were appointed by Republican Presidents. Overturning the right to abortion was a campaign promise made by Mr. Trump, and during his four years as President, he appointed three justices – Neil Gorsuch in 2017, Brett Kavanaugh in 2018 and Amy Coney Barrett in 2020 – to give the SCOTUS a 6-3 conservative majority.

Why does it matter?

■ The U.S. on Friday joined three other countries – El Salvador, Nicaragua and Poland – that have rolled back abortion rights since 1994, according to the Center for Reproductive Rights. The Guttmacher Institute points out that years of research has shown that abortion bans severely impact people of marginalised groups who already struggle to access health care, including abortion.

In a statement, Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said that the verdict represents a "major setback" for sexual and reproductive health across the U.S. The UN sexual and reproductive health agency (UNFPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) noted that a staggering 45% of all abortions around the world are unsafe, making the procedure a leading cause of maternal death. The UNFPA said that it feared that more unsafe abortions will occur around the world if access becomes more restricted.

In a comment for *The Conversation*, Gretchen Ely at the University of Tennessee suggests this will put the U.S. on a similar path to Ireland between 1983 and 2018. She writes that the Irish law led to a prolonged period of suffering for many Irish women, documented in a series of court cases that helped turn the tide of opinion toward legalisation. These included the tragedy of Savita Halappanavar, a 31-year-old woman forced to miscarry an unviable foetus rather than terminate the pregnancy with medical assistance, which resulted in her death.

What happens next?

■ Thirteen states have 'trigger bans' in place which means abortions are banned under most circumstances and come fully into effect with the overturning of *Roe*. Of the 13, Missouri was the first to invoke the 'trigger law' and ban abortion. Women who seek an abortion will have to travel to states where it is legal, making it an expensive proposition, not available to all. With mid-term elections due in November, the Democrats will lean on the abortion issue to urge pro-choice women to vote for them. But despite President Joe Biden's appeal that the only way "we can secure a woman's right to choose...is for Congress to restore the protections of *Roe v. Wade* as federal law", he admitted that Congress "as it appears, lacks the vote" to pass that type of legislation. Also, with *Roe* overturned, activists are already afraid that the judgment could have a domino effect on other rights like contraception and same-sex marriage.

DROUPADI MURMU

The irresistible rise

A tribal woman leader, backed by BJP, seeks to make history on July 18

NISTULA HEBBAR

ILLUSTRATION: R.RAJESH

It is no secret that Droupadi Murmu, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) nominee for the July 18 Presidential election, was on the short list for the same in 2017 as well. The candidate herself acknowledged it when the BJP leadership announced that she was in the fray this year.

At that time, at the age of 59, she was considered to have time on her side. In 2022, the time seems to have arrived for a woman tribal candidate to occupy the highest office in the country, the beating heart of the Indian Republic, so to speak.

When she was born in 1958, in the district of Mayurbhanj in Odisha, there was nothing to foretell that she was headed to the Rashtrapati Bhavan. She was educated at the Unit II High School and Rama Devi College (now University), both in Bhubaneshwar.

She went on to work as a junior assistant in the State Irrigation and Power Department from 1979 to 1983, and then as a teacher at Sri Aurobindo Integral Education Centre at Rairangpur till 1997.

Entering politics

It was during her stint in Rairangpur that she got interested in politics and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In 1997, she was elected to the Rairangpur Corporation and became the Vice-Chairperson of the civic body.

Her political rise has since then been steady. It was a time when the BJP was in an alliance with the Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal. In 2000, as the parties contested together, Ms. Murmu won her first Assembly election.

When the coalition came to power, she was chosen to be a Minister, first for Transport and Commerce and then for Fisheries and Animal Husbandry.

She was given independent charge, a rare responsibility for a first-time MLA. When the alliance between the BJP and the BJD ended, Ms. Murmu continued to nurture her constituency, Rairangpur, and despite a Naveen Patnaik wave in 2009, she managed to retain her seat.

Despite back-to-back personal tragedies, Murmu has stayed active in politics for decades, earning a reputation for being sensitive towards the tribal communities

But this was also the year that she suffered the loss of her 25-year-old son, which she later said in an interview plunged her into depression, and drew her close to spirituality.

The personal tragedies, however, were not to end. She lost her second son in 2013, and her husband, Shyam Charan Murmu, a bank official, in 2014, leaving her with her daughter, Itishree Murmu.

In 2015, Ms. Murmu was appointed Governor of Jharkhand. It was never an easy assignment for the occupant of the Raj Bhavan in Jharkhand, the State born out of a people's struggle to foreground the political and social rights of tribal communities.

There were frequent changes of government and MLAs often switched loyalties. Ms. Murmu, however, created a record of being the first Governor to complete a full term and then served an an extra year before exiting the office in 2021.

When Ms. Murmu became Governor, there was a BJP government in Jharkhand. The Raghubar Das-led government brought in two Bills to amend the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, and the Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act, 1949. These amendments related to allowing conversion of land use in tribal areas from agriculture to commercial purposes, and set off a major uproar among tribal groups and civil society.

These Acts were articles of faith in the battle for land rights and rights over natural resources for tribal communities, fought and won in the teeth of opposition and against the British colonial rule. To amend these Acts was akin to a reversal of any gains made by tribal people in terms of land rights.

Ms. Murmu as Governor, someone constitutionally empowered to intervene in issues related to scheduled areas, soon intervened and rejected the two Bills when they were presented to her, an act which won her approbation from the Opposition, with current Chief Minister Hemant Soren lauding her for her "sensitivity" for "providing a balm to society that was on the boil for the last six months".

Working relationship

When the government changed in Jharkhand in 2019, Mr. Soren and Ms. Murmu managed a good working relationship. Ironically, Mr. Soren is part of the Opposition grouping, which has announced former Yashwant Sinha, a former Finance Minister (in the Vajpayee-led NDA government) as its presidential candidate.

The distance travelled by Ms Murmu, from Rairangpur to the Raisina Hills, is akin to the lonely, tough furrow ploughed by tribal communities in India, who, despite being at the forefront of India's struggles against the British colonial rule, had to wait till the Republic's 75th anniversary to get its shot at the top job.

YASHWANT SINHA

A career of many turns

The former BJP leader is the Opposition's face in the presidential race

SOBHANA K. NAIR

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

Yashwant Sinha's political career has come full circle. From being a trenchant critic of the Congress and the Left as a BJP leader for over two decades to a joint Opposition candidate in the July 18 Presidential election, supported by both.

Mr. Sinha was born in Patna on November 6, 1937, as the ninth of 11 siblings. His father was an advocate in the Patna High Court. At the age of 23, Mr. Sinha joined the Indian Administrative Service and was allotted the Bihar cadre. Fourteen years into the job, in 1974, answering the call for "Total Revolution" from Jai Prakash Narayan, Mr. Sinha wanted to quit the service. He writes in his autobiography, *Relentless*, that he was dissuaded by the family that was solely dependent on his salary and many leaders, including JP himself.

The high point of his bureaucratic career was his term as Principal Secretary to Bihar Chief Minister and socialist Karpoori Thakur, in 1977. In 1984, while serving as Joint Secretary in the Union government, he resigned to join politics. Through a mutual friend, he met Chandra Shekhar, who was heading the Janata party. Chandra Shekhar was his first mentor and guide. When Chandra Shekhar became Prime Minister in November 1990, Mr. Sinha was picked as his Finance Minister – at a time when the country was going through its worst financial crisis.

By the early 1990s, Chandra Shekhar's political fortunes were sliding and with no future in sight for himself, Mr. Sinha drifted to the BJP. He left his first mentor at his lowest ebb. In 1993, a day after Deepavali, Mr. Sinha joined the BJP, which L.K. Advani termed a "Diwali gift" for the party.

In the 1998 Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, the Prime Minister was keen on appointing Jaswant Singh as Finance Minister, but he had lost the election. Mr. Advani persuaded Vajpayee to allot the portfolio to Mr. Sinha instead.

Though Mr. Advani was his closest ally in the BJP, Mr. Sinha was the first to attack him for his "Jinnah was a secular person" remark that he made in June 2005. Mr. Advani's remarks eventually led to his resignation as the BJP president in December that year.

Stronger BJP

When Mr. Sinha was asked if Mr. Advani's resignation would create a vacuum in the BJP, he said the BJP would only emerge stronger. The cord was broken. He bitterly complains in his autobiography that he missed the opportunity to become the party's leader in the Lok Sabha because of this episode.

But this was not the last time he was challenging the BJP leadership and testing its patience. In 2009, he wrote a letter to then BJP president Rajnath Singh, after the party's consecutive defeats in two general elections. He wanted all BJP office-bearers to resign and a new team to be elected. This was his own version of the Kamaraj plan. Naturally, his idea was binned. Mr. Singh issued gag orders and Mr. Sinha was removed from the post of party spokesperson.

A former ally of Chandra Shekhar and Advani, Sinha, who quit the BJP in 2018, has remained a critic of the Modi government for the last several years

In 2013, he once again challenged the BJP leadership. This time, Nitin Gadkari was the party president whose term was ending. Many in the party assumed that he would return despite reports about corruption allegations. "I felt that in view of the allegations, he should not seek re-election to the post," Mr. Sinha writes in *Relentless*. Though he called for the nomination form, he never filed it. But that was enough for the party to sideline him. In 2014 he did not get the party ticket to contest from Hazaribagh. The Prime Ministerial candidate, Narendra Modi, wanted those above 75 years of age to retire gracefully. It was the end of the road for Mr. Sinha. He still reached out to Mr. Modi and Mr. Singh for ticket for his son Jayant in his place.

While his son was a Minister of State in the Union Finance Ministry, the father started relentlessly criticising the Modi government's economic policies. On April 21, 2018, he resigned from the BJP. He tried to set up an anti-BJP forum, Rashtra Manch, but failed to create a buzz. In 2021, he joined the Trinamool Congress and became its vice president. Though it was widely believed that he would secure a Rajya Sabha berth, the party didn't oblige. But as a somewhat pale compensation, the Trinamool lobbied to make him the joint candidate for the presidential election.

On the day his candidature was announced, his son Jayant Sinha, who is a BJP MP in the Lok Sabha, said he would not support his father in this race. He said his constitutional duty was towards his party and that election was not a family matter. Mr. Sinha has the support of Opposition parties but as the numbers stand, the election is turning out to be a non-contest.

GUSTAVO PETRO

From an urban guerrilla to the first leftist President in Bogota

Colombia's President-elect carries both enormous expectations and humongous challenges

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

A former member of an urban guerilla outfit and later elected as Mayor of Bogota, Gustavo Petro made history by winning the second round run-off in the presidential election in Colombia, securing 50.4% of the vote over his rival, a property tycoon, Rodolfo Hernandez's 47.3% last week. Mr. Petro's victory marks the first time that an avowedly leftist politician won the President's post in a country which has had a right wing/centrist establishment for decades.

Yet, Mr Petro's ascent to the presidency was no flash in the pan. A self described social democrat and a progressive, the economist had managed more than 41% of the votes in the 2018 presidential run-off, finishing second to Ivan Duque of the Democratic Center party. In this election, Mr. Petro's victory was secured through an enhanced support from the poor in the country, especially in the most impoverished provinces (departments). *The Economist* reported that turnout in Magdalena and Choco departments, the poorest in the country, went up by 16%. The overall turnout went up by 4.16%, boosted largely by an increase in voting among Mr. Petro's supporters.

Mr. Petro's opponent, Mr. Hernandez, left no stone unturned in seeking support from different segments, by tacking onto right wing populism and utilising social media campaigns to experience a surge in his popularity. But Mr. Petro's grassroots campaign focused on policies that he promised would tackle long-term poverty and inequality that were a consequence of decades of conservative rule and had exacerbated problems during the pandemic in particular. His campaign was boosted by his choice of running mate in Vice-President designate Francia Marquez, a human rights and environmental activist and who is now the first Afro-Colombian to secure that position.

Aided by the poor

Mr. Petro's victory was aided not only by the rural poor, but also from support in the capital city of Bogota, where he served as Mayor for a period of nearly three years in the early 2010s. As Mayor, he worked on expanding amenities to the sprawling urban slums in the city, subsidising public transport, and recognising the work of the informal recycling sector that employed so many of the poor. This tenure significantly increased his personal popularity and expanded support for his Humane Colombia movement, which has now graduated into a political party that integrated into the "Historic Pact for Colombia" (PHxC) coalition with the support of other left-wing political parties and social movements in 2021 and catapulted Mr. Petro to becoming its presidential candidate.

His opponents have sought to play on fears of Mr. Petro being a "radical leftist" based on his earlier association with the urban guerilla movement, "April 19" or M-19, which he joined at the age of 17. As a rebel, Mr. Petro went by the name 'Aureliano', a reference to Nobel laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, which features the perennial rebel Aureliano Buendia. Largely a political activist associated with the M-19 group, Mr. Petro never participated in militant action, but he was arrested and later tortured in prison before the group demobilised in the early 1990s. A decade later, Mr. Petro had become a member of Congress and had entered legal political life.

Mr. Petro's platform was one of economic reforms to address the severe issues of inequality and poverty in Colombia – one of the most unequal societies in Latin America – including significant agrarian reform, progressive taxation, a strong emphasis on climate-centric policies such as reliance on clean energy, besides expansive social welfare programmes in education and health care. Mr. Petro rejects his critics' likening of his ideology to be akin to that of other Latin American socialists such as Hugo Chavez, and says he is ideologically closer to figures such as Jose "Pepe" Mujica, the former Uruguayan President, who also rose from being a former urban guerrilla to becoming one of Latin America's most popular Presidents in the early 2010s.

In an interview to *The Economist* last month, Mr. Petro identified taxation of the Colombian wealthy elite, prohibition of new hydrocarbon extraction projects while taxing dividends and surpluses gained in the existing ones, a transition from exports gained from the extraction industry to domestic production and agrarian transformation as key policy initiatives that his government will pursue. Colombia, which teetered into what critics called a "narco-democracy" in the late 20th/ early 21st century continues to be a major partner and recipient of U.S. funds to tackle the problem of cocaine production.

But the "war against drugs" has only militarised Colombian society, creating a nexus between the illegal narcotics production industry and the elite in several Colombian towns and the countryside. He has identified the renewed emphasis on helping agrarian populations with credit and incentives as a way to wean them off from the control of the narcotic mafia and weakening its hold on the economy.

Mr. Petro's alternative emphasis on the "war on drugs" has caused some alarm within the Washington establishment, which for decades in its relationship with Colombia has relied on a policy of penal provisions such as extradition of drug lords, eradicating coca production and a strong security relationship that focused both on the drug war as well as on threats from rural guerilla insurgents such as the (now disbanded) Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and National Liberation Army (ELN).

Petro now represents the "new Pink tide" in Latin America as other progressives such as Argentina's Alberto Fernandez, Chile's Gabriel Boric and Honduras's Xiomaro Castro

A new pink tide

In the early-mid 2000s, the term "pink tide" was used to describe the swathe of left-wing regimes that took root in most parts of Latin America – from Hugo Chavez's Venezuela to Evo Morales's Bolivia to Rafael Correa's Ecuador on the one end of the leftist (socialist) spectrum to Lula Inacio Da Silva's Brazil, Nestor Kirchner's Argentina, Michelle Bachelet's Chile among others in the social democratic end.

The regimes in the socialist spectrum were inspired by the Cuban Revolution in some ways, especially the successes in the social sector by the revolutionary government in Havana. These regimes sought to rewrite the social contract between the people and government in their respective countries – by setting up new Constituent Assemblies that worked towards political reforms which included decentralisation of power.

The "socialist" regimes were, in hindsight, only partially successful.

The "social democratic" regimes did not fare too well either. Mr. Petro seems to be cognisant of the failings of these Left regimes in the early 21st century and has emphasised a significant difference – instead of harnessing the profits from the hydrocarbon extraction industry for redistribution, his political platform would instead focus on diversification of the economy and reducing dependence upon it. He has reiterated that he will adhere to the constitutional norms of a single tenure government and will not pursue radical reforms of the kind seen in Venezuela for example. At the same time, Mr. Petro has emphasised the reopening of the borders with neighbouring Venezuela and betterment of diplomatic ties despite political and ideological differences.

Historic victory

While Mr. Petro has managed a historic presidential victory, he faces significant challenges in implementing his agenda as the PHxC only has 15% of seats across both houses of Congress. Other institutions that were built and thrived during former President Alvaro Uribe's tenure – one that marked right-wing authoritarianism and the instituting of neoliberalism – will also resist any significant changes to the economy that are being proposed by Mr. Petro. It will be up to him to mobilise further support from civil society to make incremental progress and lessons learnt from the Left's experience in Latin America in the past decade will come in handy. After all, Mr. Petro now represents the "new Pink tide" in the continent as other progressives such as Xiomaro Castro in Honduras, Gabriel Boric in Chile, Alberto Fernandez in Argentina and Pedro Castillo in Peru, who have inherited similar challenges in their respective countries.

GST compensation cess extended till '26

The levy on luxury, demerit goods will be collected 4 more years till March 2026, to repay borrowings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Centre has extended the time for levy of GST compensation cess by almost four years till March 31, 2026.

As per the Goods and Services Tax (Period of Levy and Collection of Cess) Rules, 2022, notified by the Finance Ministry, the compensation cess would continue to be levied from July 1, 2022, to March 31, 2026.

The levy of cess was to end on June 30 but the GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising State FMs, decided to extend it till 2026 to repay the loans taken in the last two years to make up for the shortfall in their revenue collection.

After the 45th GST Council meeting in Lucknow in September last year, Ms. Sitharaman had said the regime of paying compensation to States for revenue shortfall resulting from subsuming their taxes such as VAT in GST, would end in June 2022. However, the compensation cess, levied on luxury and demerit goods, would continue to be collected till March 2026 to repay the borrowings that were done in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to compensate States for GST revenue loss.

Burden to bear: The levy's extension will impose a burden on sectors like automotive, says Deloitte's Mani. • K. PICHUMANI

In order to meet the resource gap of States due to short release of compensation, the Centre borrowed and released ₹1.1 lakh crore in 2020-21 and ₹1.59 lakh crore in 2021-22 as back-to-back loan to partly meet the shortfall in cess collection.

Principal repayment

The Centre has repaid ₹7,500 crore as interest cost for the borrowing in 2021-22 and ₹14,000 crore is to be paid this fiscal year. From 2023-24, the repayment of the principal amount would start and would continue till March 2026.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced with effect from July 1, 2017, and States were assured of compensation for the loss of any revenue arising on account of implementation of GST for a period of five years.

Though States' protected revenue has been growing at 14% compounded growth rate, the cess collection did not increase in the same proportion and COVID-19 further increased the gap between protected revenue and the actual revenue receipts.

The Centre has released the GST compensation payable to States up to May 31.

"The extension of the levy of compensation cess, although expected, will continue to impose a burden on the impacted businesses, especially sectors like automotive, which need to be encouraged as it is one of the sectors that has a multiplier effect on GDP and employment," said Deloitte India Partner M.S. Mani.

Duty waiver for cotton import likely to lapse on Sept. 30

Govt. planning scheme for textile machinery manufacture

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

The Centre is unlikely to continue the import duty exemption for cotton beyond September 30 as the prices of cotton textiles have started easing, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry and Textiles Piyush Goyal said on Saturday.

However, if there was a need, the government could consider extending the exemption by a month, Mr. Goyal told reporters. In April, the Union government had suspended the 10% import duty on cotton till September 30.

The government was also formulating a scheme to promote indigenous manufacturing of textile machinery, he said.

Textile and clothing exports grew 40% in 2021-2022 to $44 billion. It is expected to cross $50 billion this year, he said, adding the industry and the government were working to help the industry to reach a size of $250 billion, with $100 billion of exports, in another five years.

The minister said talks were on between the Industry and Textiles ministries and Niti Aayog to come out with another Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the textile sector.

Asked about the National Textile Corporation (NTC) mills, he said, "We are examining whether NTC can be run professionally and profitably. But, so far, NTC performance has not been profitable, has not been efficient." The assets of NTC could, however, be put to use by a joint effort of government and the private sector, Mr. Goyal added.

'NBFCs should diversify their risks across sectors'

Ex-SBI chair Kumar sees tighter norms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Non-banking financial companies need to diversify risks across sectors and geographies, as well as adhere to capital adequacy norms and introduce core banking solutions going ahead, former State Bank of India chairman Rajnish Kumar said.

Mr. Kumar also said the risk-taking abilities of NBFCs are higher than banks, and that the regulatory stance will become tougher, with the regulation arbitrage between lenders and non-banking entities ceasing to exist.

"Regarding asset quality review of lenders, as pointed out by former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan, the NPA problem started with the NBFCs. The whole issue boils down to risk management and governance.

> **The whole issue boils down to risk management and governance**

"There is a need for NBFCs to take a diversified approach across sectors and geographies and also be mindful about the risk matrix," he said at an event organised by VFS Capital.

Almost 23% of lending in the financial sector happens through the NBFCs, he said.

Regarding NPAs, Mr. Kumar said lenders could not escape their share of the blame, adding that "faulty" government policies in "power, coal, telecom and road sectors" were also responsible for the bad loans.

INTERVIEW | SAURABH KUMAR SAHU

'5G to turn homes, enterprises into focal points for innovation'

'India making steady progress in terms of 5G readiness'

MINI TEJASWI

5G will lead to widespread adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), enabling gargantuan volumes of data to be acquired, processed, and intelligently analysed in real time, says **Saurabh Kumar Sahu,** *MD and Lead - Communications, Media and Technology, Accenture in India. Excerpts:*

Saurabh Kumar Sahu

What are some of the key challenges faced by telecom companies in 5G deployments in India?

■ Some of the key challenges faced by telecom companies include developing a viable business and pricing model, fiberisation, an upgraded transport network and extension of cloud. While 5G is well poised to transform consumer experiences, businesses, the economy, and society in the next decade spurred by faster connectivity speeds, ultra-low latency, and greater bandwidth, it is a capital-intensive exercise.

How do you view the country's current readiness for 5G?

■ India has been making steady progress in terms of 5G readiness. As telecom companies prepare for commercial roll-out, they have been working on creating the ecosystem with partners, and setting up labs and innovation centres.

In fact, we are also witnessing use-case based roll-outs of 5G services through private networks across multiple industries, aimed at improving productivity, efficiency, and agility. Network roll-out for consumers is expected to be in the trial stage in 2022 and its scaling to large deployments would depend on the 5G spectrum auction.

What are the new trends around 5G and network modernisation?

■ The most important trend that is shaping the 5G and network modernisation agenda for telecom companies is the cloudification of the network. Distributed hybrid architecture across Core and RAN, decoupled network, applications management stack and an evolved operating model comprise its key components. Operating a cloud-native network requires the support of robust digital technologies including automation as well as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) which help make the network more self-reliant and responsive.

What technological innovations are required to drive 5G in India?

■ 5G will lead to widespread artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) adoption, enabling gargantuan volumes of data to be acquired, processed, and intelligently analysed in real time. The maturity of enabling technologies such as AI, edge computing and advanced data analytics coupled with 5G will transform the industry. This will provide advantages of near real time responsiveness (ultra-reliable, low latency), fast speed (enhanced mobile broadband), all device connectivity (massive Internet of Things/ IoT) enabled by network slicing.

What has been Accenture's role in enabling the 5G journey of telcos in India?

■ We are committed to helping telcos and enterprises to prepare for the 5G opportunity. Combining our 5G capabilities, Network Equipment Provider (NEP), application vendor, device and sensor partners enable us to help both telcos and enterprises to be at the heart of the 5G ecosystem to unlock the growth. We also bring proven expertise across industries which enables us to achieve digitisation and transformation at scale. We are also helping businesses finalise their 5G strategy and roadmap.

How will 5G impact homes and enterprises, especially in terms of innovation?

■ We expect to see more innovation in the enterprise segment, which will be a composite of 5G, 4G, small cells and even WiFi offloads, along with the play of new digital technologies. This enterprise movement will be enabled by a hybrid network, enhanced in coverage through hyperscale collaboration. In the consumer space, we will see a shift from business-to-consumer (B2C) to business-to-business-to-consumer (B2B2C), with the home becoming the focal point for innovation.

Future defaults on ₹4.1 crore NCDs' interest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Debt-ridden Future Enterprises Ltd. has defaulted on interest payment of ₹4.10 crore for its non-convertible debentures.

The due date for payment was June 24, 2022, the company said in a regulatory filing.

"The company is unable to service its obligations in respect of the interest on non-convertible debentures was due on June 24, 2022," it said.

This is the fourth default in June by the Kishore Biyani-led Future group firm. Earlier this week, FEL defaulted twice on interest payments of ₹85.71 lakh and ₹6.07 crore for its non-convertible debentures. FEL had made another default on the payment of interest of ₹1.41 crore, earlier this month.

Brakes India plans to boost capacity to meet growth: Viji

MD sees plants running out of capacity in 18 months' time

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

Brakes India, a major supplier of automotive braking systems, is considering setting up a new plant in one of its existing premises in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh or Gujarat to meet future growth, said MD Sriram Viji.

"Currently, we are in the process of setting up a new plant in Thervoy Kandigai, near Chennai, by investing ₹100 crore," Mr. Viji said. The plant, which would manufacture products for commercial vehicle braking systems, was expected to become operational in three months time, he observed, adding that the products were currently in the process of getting validated.

According to Mr. Viji, the company had succeeded in posting high growth due to a good order book position as well as the introduction of new products.

Sriram Viji • BIJOY GHOSH

"The factories are expected to run out of capacity in 18 months time... we are looking at expanding the capacity within our premises either in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh or Gujarat," Mr. Viji explained.

On the outlook for the company's future prospects, Mr. Viji said that over a five-year horizon, Brakes India expected to double sales in the domestic market and register a fivefold expansion in the export market, helped by volume growth and product content.

Eyeing Southeast Asia

Last fiscal, Brakes India along with its associate companies posted a total turnover of ₹5,500 crore, of which exports alone accounted for ₹1,400 crore.

The company is a big supplier of safety critical braking systems to Europe, which accounted for export revenue of ₹1,000 crore. It is also exploring opportunities in Southeast Asian countries, Mr. Viji added.

'Raw coking coal output to touch 140 MT'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government on Saturday said the country's domestic raw coking coal output may touch 140 million tonnes (MT) by 2030 from the present 51.7 MT.

"With transformative measures taken by Ministry of Coal under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative of PM, domestic raw coking coal production is likely to reach 140 MT by 2030," the coal ministry said.

To further increase the output of raw coking coal, the Centre has auctioned 10 coking coal blocks to the private sector, with a peak rated capacity (PRC) of 22.5 MT during the last two years. Most of these blocks are expected to start production by 2025.

Atlas SkillTech eyes ₹150 crore for expansion

Looks to mobilise ₹100 cr. via grants

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Atlas SkillTech University, Maharashtra's first multidisciplinary skills university, is planning to mobilise ₹150 crore to fuel its next round of growth.

The private not-for-profit university was set up last year at Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) with an initial grant of ₹150 crore from upGrad, an online higher education company co-founded by philanthropist Ronnie Screwvala.

"We have already invested ₹150 crore in building up the university towards infrastructure, faculty and high-quality international partnerships for curriculum and towards scholarships," said Siddharth Sahani, executive president and co-founder Atlas SkillTech University.

"We have earmarked another ₹150 crore for expansion in the next three years," he added.

"We see a lot of other corporates wanting to come together and work with us. We will be mobilising ₹100 crore through grants. The other well-wishers as well who want to contribute can do so," Mr. Sahani said.

The university, which currently focuses on three new-age disciplines namely design, entrepreneurship and technology, is gearing up to introduce additional courses relating to the new economy for creating talent for high value jobs both in India and abroad.

Hindustan Copper may raise ₹500 cr.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Hindustan Copper Ltd.'s board will meet next week to consider a proposal to raise up to ₹500 crore by issuing debentures.

"A meeting of the board of directors of Hindustan Copper will be held on June 30 to inter alia, consider and recommend resolutions seeking approval of the shareholders of the company to authorise the board of directors... to offer, issue and allot secured or unsecured non-convertible debentures or bonds on a private placement basis up to ₹500 crore," the PSU said in a filing.

The board will also consider raising funds through a qualified institutional placement, it added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my clients **Mrs. Geetha Devi, Mr. Kailash Chand Mall and Mr. Shaitan Singh,** all are R/at No.211/13-A, Mathru Krupa Nivas, Appu Rao Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560 018 are the absolute owners and are in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property mentioned below and they have lost/misplaced the Original Sale Deed dated 14-04-1962, registered as document No.1239/1962-63 of Book-I, Volume No.315, pages at No.83-85, pertaining to the Schedule property. In this connection, an E-Complaint has also been lodged on **25-06-2022.** I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said document, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within 7 **days** and they may be suitable awarded, and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original document, it shall not be binding on my clients and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of house property bearing No.211/13-A, situated at **9th Cross, Appu Rao Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore,** having 50 years old RCC roofed building with red-oxide flooring, measuring East to West 33+28/2 feet and North to south 30 feet, out of East to West 40+45/2 feet and North to South 30 feet totally 915 square feet total Ground and 1st Floor 1200 square feet building 300 square feet commercial usage and 900 square feet residential use and bounded on:

East by : Conservancy ; West by : Remaining Portion retained by Mrs. Pankaja, North by : Appurao Road, South by : Passage and Private Property;

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, North Park Road,
Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560020.
Mob:9740718436

Place: Bengaluru Date: 25/06/2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public are hereby informed that my clients intend to purchase the immovable property listed in the Schedule herein below (hereinafter referred to as the "Schedule Property") from its lawful owner **SMT. USHA S. PANDHARI** aged about 69 years W/o late **Dr.S.R. Pandhari,** residing at No.10, VHBCS Layout, Behind Avani Shankar Mutt, Bangalore-560086, who claims to be the present absolute owner thereof. Any person or persons ascertaining any right, title, interest, share, claim, Collateral from Bank/Financial Institution, charge in the schedule property or having any kind of charges or claim against documents of title or pertaining to such sale by the owner in favour of my client and write to the undersigned within (15) **FIFTEEN DAYS** from the date of Publication of this Notice with all documentary proof which they are relying on their rights with regard to the schedule property. Any objection received thereafter will not be entertained and our client will proceed on the basis that there are no claims whatsoever nature with regard to the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.10, formed by Vyalikaval House Building Cooperative Society, Ltd., Bangalore in Survey Nos.178 & 179 of Laggere Village, Yeswanthapur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently new Municipal No.10, Vyalikaval HBCS Kamala Nagar Ward No.16, PID No.16-58-10, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 Feet North to South (50+50.6)/2 Feet, totally 1509 Square Feet, consisting of Ground Floor and First Floor residential house with all civil amenities, together with all rights, privileges, appurtenances thereto, bounded on the:

East by : Private Layout,
West by : Site No.9,
North by : Road, South by : Site No.1

DATE : 26-06-2022
Place : Bangalore

S. UDAYA KUMARR, B.A.,LL.B.,
ADVOCATE
#263, Sri.MNS Arcade,3 Rd Floor, 1st N Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, -560010
Cell: 9845726723

KARNATAKA NEERAVRI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the, Executive Engineer, KNNL,
TLBC Division No. 3, Sindhanur-584128.

No: KNNL/EE-3/TS/SR/Tender Notification/Call-3/2022-23/ 302 Date: 22.06.2022.

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Call-3) (Through e-procurement only)

Tender in electronic mode on Item Rate basis are invited from the eligible Contractors / firm/ company enlisted under KNNL category-II & above of Karnataka state who fulfill the given conditions, **for the work of Improvements to Service roads (In selected Reaches of TLBC).** The tender shall be offered through e-procurement system only and will be in two cover system. Last date for submission of tender through electronic tender is Dt: 14.07.2022 up to 4.00 PM. The amount put to tender is Rs. 804.40 Lakhs and EMD Rs. 8,05,000/-.

The tender conditions and other information can be obtained from this office during office hours or through website www.eprockarnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIP/Raichur/147/MC&A/2022-23 **KNNL, TLBC Division No.3, Sindhanur-584128.**

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI

No: EE/PWD/DIV/KLB/TS-6/Tender Notification/2022-23/1865 Dated: 22-06-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work : Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi Invites tender (KW-4) for 5054 Appendix-E & 8443 of 2 works of Indent No: **153723, 152504** tenders are called through e-procurement for the year 2022-23, 2) Estimated Cost: **Estimate cost Minimum 269.28 Lakhs & Maximum 417.42 Lakhs,** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: "PWD, Registered Contractors:"Class-I Qualified to tender for works upto any amount, "Class-II Qualified to tender for works upto Rs. 5.00 Crores", 4) Tender fees and EMD details: Application Fees as per e-procurement EMD Minimum Rs. 4,05,000.00 & Maximum Rs. 6,30,000.00, 5) Pre Bid Meeting : 11/07/2022 upto 11.00 Hrs., 6)Last date for queries: 13/07/2022 upto 17.30 Hrs, 7) Last date for submission of tender: 14/07/2022 upto 16.00 Hrs., 8) Date of opening of Technical Bid: 15/07/2022 at 16:30 Hrs., 9) Date of opening of Financial Bid: 18/07/2022 at 16.30 Hrs, 10) Enquiries: Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 11) website : www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/291/MC&A/2022-23 **PWD Division Kalaburagi**

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

No: EE/RWSS/Dvn/SMG/JE/JJM/E-Proc/2022-23/632 Date : 22.06.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, tenders have been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 to undertake the following works in the limits of Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga under Jal Jeevan Mission Project.

Indent Nos.: 1) 41498 2) 41550 3) 41499 4) 41492 **SC** 5) 41477 6) 41480 7) 41495 8) 41423 9) 41508 10) 41502 11) 41525 12) 41475 13) 41493 14) 41383.

Tender details, terms and conditions, corrigendum or changes are available on website : https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and the eligible contractors/bidders should submit their bids and required documents on e-portal only.

Tender Schedules :

(1) Last date for receiving tenders from contractors : **05/06.07.2022 at 5.30 P M.** (2) Date of opening of Single cover Financial Bid : **07.07.2022 at 11.30 A. M.** (3) Date of opening of Double cover Technical Bid : **08.07.2022 at 11.30 A M.** (4) Date of opening of Double cover Financial bid : **10.07.2022 at 11.30 A M.** (5) Time fixed for completion of works : **Single Cover : 3 months (90 days) Double cover: 3 months (90 days)**

sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR/SMG/No.131-06 zenkar/2022-23 **Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Shivamogga**

Harmanpreet leads from the front

India pulls off series-sealing victory as Sri Lanka crumbles after fantastic start

INDIA IN SL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DAMBULLA

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur contributed with both bat and ball to steer India Women to a series sealing five-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the second Twenty20 International here on Saturday.

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana's (39, 34b) experience complemented by the exuberance of Shefali Verma (17, 10b) and S. Meghana (17, 10b) helped India chase down the 126-run target in 19.1 overs.

India stuttered in what should have been a comfortable run chase before Harmanpreet took India home with an unbeaten 31 off 32 balls.

Sri Lanka squandered a fine start to post a below par 125 for seven.

Cool campaigner: Even as India stuttered in the chase, Harmanpreet steadied the ship and took it home. • SRI LANKA CRICKET

Smriti's milestone

It was a day to remember for Smriti who became the second fastest Indian woman to reach 2,000 T20 runs. She reached the milestone in her 84th innings, becoming the third Indian woman after the legendary Mithali Raj (70 innings) and current skipper Harmanpreet (88 innings) to cross the mark.

Opting to bat and with the series on the line, captain Chamari Athapaththu (43, 41b) and Vishmi Gunaratne (45, 50b) provided an ideal start for the Lankans.

However, once Chamari and Vishmi departed, Sri Lanka crumbled.

The scores: Sri Lanka: Vishmi Gunaratne c & b Harmanpreet 45 *(50b, 6x4)*, Chamari Athapathu c Radha b Pooja 43 *(41b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Harshitha Samarawickrama c Shafali b Deepti 9 *(13b)*, Kavisha Dilhari c Smriti b Renuka 2 *(5b)*, Nilakshi de Silva lbw b Deepti 1 *(2b)*, Hasini Perera run out 0 *(0)*, Oshadi Ranasinghe c Yastika b Radha *5 (3b, 1x4)*, Anushka Sanjeewani (not out) 8 *(5b)*, Sugandika Kumari (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (b-4, lb-2, w-5): 11; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 125.

Fall of wickets: 1-87 (Chamari, 13.5 overs), 2-106 (Vishmi, 16.6), 3-108 (Harshitha, 17.2), 4-110 (Nilakshi, 17.6), 5-110 (Hasini, 18.1), 6-116 (Oshadi, 18.5), 7-120 (Kavisha, 19.3).

India bowling: Renuka 4-0-26-1, Deepti 4-0-34-2, Simran 2-0-14-0, Radha 3-0-15-1, Pooja 4-0-18-1, Harmanpreet 3-0-12-1.

India: Smriti Mandhana st Anushka b Inoka 39 *(34b, 8x4)*, Shafali Verma c Kavisha b Oshadi 17 *(10b, 2x4, 1x6)*, S. Meghana st. Anushka b Sugandika 17 *(10b, 4x4)*, Harmanpreet Kaur (not out) 31 *(32b, 2x4)*, Jemimah Rodrigues c Hasini b Inoka 3 *(6b)*, Yastika Bhatia st. Anushka b Oshadi 13 *(18b)*, Deepti Sharma (not out) 5 *(5b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-1): 2; Total (for five wkts. in 19.1 overs): 127.

Fall of wickets: 1-30 (Shafali, 3.4), 2-48 (Meghana, 5.4), 3-86 (Smriti, 10.6), 4-91 (Jemimah, 12.4), 5-114 (Yastika, 17.2).

Sri Lanka bowling: Udeshika 2-0-22-0, Oshadi 4-0-32-2, Sugandika 4-0-20-1, Inoka 4-0-18-2, Kavisha 3.1-0-17-0, Chamari 2-0-17-0.

Toss: Sri Lanka; **Player-of-the-Match:** Harmanpreet; *India won by five wickets to lead three-match series 2-0.*

Third T20I: June 27, Dambulla.

Smriti all praise for Indian bowlers

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Sri Lanka may be facing a fuel crisis, but that didn't stop Smriti Mandhana's fans from driving to the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium on Saturday. 'No petrol, but still came to see Smriti Mandhana,' said a banner from a spectator during the second Women's T20I between Sri Lanka and India.

Smriti gave her fans something to cheer about, too.

The left-handed stylist made 39 off 34 balls.

A little after India chased down the modest target of 126 with five wickets and as many balls to spare, she said it wasn't an easy wicket to bat on.

"The wicket was keeping a bit low," she said. "...You really had to work hard for your runs."

Smriti, who also completed 2000 T20I runs during her innings, praised the young bowling attack.

"They did a really good job today and in the last match also when they defended a total of (less than) 140," she said.

> **You really had to work hard for your runs**
>
> SMRITI

Important we play every match like a WC final, says Hardik

Skipper feels these matches will help the team improve

IND IN IRELAND

SHAYAN ACHARYA

As Hardik Pandya leads India's limited-overs side in the two-match T20I series against Ireland, beginning on Sunday, he said that henceforth each and every game will be crucial for the team and should be treated with the same intensity as the World Cup final.

"The first thing I told this group is that this is a challenge - mainly mentally because it is easy to say that we are playing against Ireland, but I don't want that mindset in my team. When you are playing for India, it's a matter of pride and if we want to win the T20 World Cup, from hereon, each and every match will be important and it is important that we play them like a World Cup final," Hardik said on Saturday.

With barely four months left for the T20 World Cup, Hardik feels that these matches will help the team improve. "If you work hard every day, eventually you will get better in the longer run and that will help the Indian team. That's something I told the boys that it does not matter who our opponents are, we have to focus on every game and consider that this is our biggest match to get better."

Brains trust: Hardik discusses tactics with head coach Laxman as Bahutule looks on. • TWITTER/BCCI

On the same path

With Rahul Dravid busy with the red-ball team for the Test against England, V.V.S. Laxman has been drafted as the head coach of the T20I squad. "It's about making sure that in the group we keep the same intensity which we generally keep, even if we are playing the World Cup or a big series. It comes down to the mental state and how better you can get because playing two matches it's not easy in terms of getting yourself pumped up, but at the same time, we are playing for India, so we will have to play our A game, which we will," Hardik said.

"The conversations between me and the coach (Laxman) have been simple. He is on the same path where we want to make sure the attitude and approach is the same as we play in any other game or maybe the World Cup game. He is here to make sure that the culture and the pathway towards the World Cup, which is set by Rahul Sir and Rohit Sharma will be the same and we're going to be following that..."

Match starts at 9 p.m.

It's Rajat Patidar's turn to notch up a hundred at the expense of Mumbai's attack

Saransh Jain chips in with a fifty; Shaw's men push for quick runs in the second innings and are 49 runs adrift with eight wickets in hand

Regal knock: Patidar's strokeful century put Madhya Pradesh firmly in the driving seat. • K. MURALI KUMAR

RANJI FINAL

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
BENGALURU

On Saturday morning with a cool breeze wafting across, a father and his son climbed the stairs towards the lone stand allowing spectators at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. He bumped into another family and quipped: "After seeing the *1983* film, my son is interested in cricket." Coincidentally the statement was made on a day – June 25 – that marked the 39th anniversary of India's historic World Cup triumph.

And inside the venue, another new order was being etched in domestic cricket with Madhya Pradesh setting itself up for its maiden Ranji Trophy title and that too at multiple-champion Mumbai's expense.

Critical benchmark

Rajat Patidar's remarkable 122 (332m, 219b, 20x4) and Saransh Jain's 57 ensured that Madhya Pradesh seized a crucial 162-run first innings lead and scaled the first critical benchmark on its path towards the title. Replying to Mumbai's 374, Madhya Pradesh posted 536.

At the fourth day's close of the Ranji final, Mumbai scored 113 for two in its second innings and is trailing by 49 runs. Skipper Prithvi Shaw and fellow-opener Hardik Tamore batted aggressively and also enjoyed their share of reprieves as catches were dropped. Tamore, however, fell on the sweep to spinner Kumar Kartikeya. Shaw was regal till he lasted, targeting the upper tier, eager to whittle down the deficit but fell in the last session.

Earlier, resuming at the overnight 368 for three, Madhya Pradesh skipper Aditya Shrivastava played out a maiden from spinner Shams Mulani. From the Far End, Mohit Avasthi steamed in and Patidar on-drove for four, and during the 127th over, a brace off the same bowler helped Madhya Pradesh move to 376 for three and two ahead of Mumbai's 374. Both Shrivastava and Patidar played some rousing shots and, as the 60-run partnership promised more, the captain edged a lifter from Avasthi.

Just as Mumbai prised out wickets, Patidar marched to his own stylish beat with shots that scorched the turf. Akshat Raghuwanshi on-drove Avasthi for four but had no clue to a Tushar Deshpande delivery that angled in. Next man Parth Sahani had a reprieve on two when Shaw grassed an edge off Mulani. But the batter did not capitalise and Mulani had the last word.

Immediately, southpaw Jain lofted a four to commence his knock. And as the fans did their 'RCB, RCB' chants, Patidar pulled Deshpande to move to 99, he then punched one towards cover and a special hundred was his to savour. He cut Deshpande, punched Mulani and Madhya Pradesh had 475 for six at lunch.

After the break and with the new ball, Deshpande castled Patidar. Meanwhile Jain nonchalantly whipped his fours. The whimsical Bengaluru weather threw up showers and on either side of the rain-break, Mulani scalped Anubhav Agarwal and Kartikeya. Another wet spell meant that tea was announced, and when play resumed Madhya Pradesh's last wicket fell, leaving Mumbai with a mountain to climb and a miracle to dream about.

The scores:

Mumbai – 1st innings: 374 in 127.4 overs.

Madhya Pradesh – 1st innings: Yash Dubey c Hardik Tamore b Mulani 133 *(336b, 14x4)*, Himanshu Mantri lbw b Deshpande 31 *(50b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Shubham Sharma c Tamore b Avasthi 116 *(215b, 15x4, 1x6)*, Rajat Patidar b Deshpande 122 *(219b, 20x4)*, Aditya Shrivastava c Sarfaraz b Avasthi 25 *(69b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Akshat Raghuwanshi b Deshpande 9 *(18b, 1x4)*, Parth Sahani lbw b Mulani 11 *(18b, 2x4)*, Saransh Jain c Aman Khan b Mulani 57 *(97b, 7x4)*, Anubhav Agarwal lbw b Mulani 8 *(29b, 1x4)*, Kumar Kartikeya c Sarfaraz Khan b Mulani 9 *(13b, 1x4)*, Gaurav Yadav (not out) 1 *(2b)*; Extras (b-10, lb-1, nb-2, w-1): 14; Total (in 177.2 overs): 536.

Fall of wickets: 1-47 (Mantri, 16.3 overs), 2-269 (Sharma, 89.4), 3-341 (Dubey, 111.5), 4-401 (Shrivastava, 132.5), 5-411 (Raghuwanshi, 138.1), 6-430 (Sahani, 143.5), 7-483 (Patidar, 163.2), 8-505 (Agarwal, 171.2), 9-515 (Kartikeya,173.6).

Mumbai bowling: Dhawal Kulkarni 24-4-53-0, Tushar Deshpande 36-10-116-3, Shams Mulani 63.2-11-173-5, Mohit Avasthi 32-7-93-2, Tanush Kotian 22-1-90-0.

Mumbai – 2nd innings: Prithvi Shaw c Yash Dubey b Yadav 44 *(52b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Hardik Tamore b Kartikeya 25 *(32b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Armaan Jaffer (batting) 30 *(34b, 3x4)*, Suved Parkar 9 *(14b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-3): 5; Total (for two wkts. in 22 overs): 113.

Fall of wickets: 1-63 (Tamore, 10.3 overs), 2-83 (Shaw, 15.6).

Madhya Pradesh bowling: Kumar Kartikeya 10-1-50-1, Anubhav Agarwal 6-0-32-0, Gaurav Yadav 5-0-23-1, Parth Sahani 1-0-6-0.

Final is not over yet: Mulani

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Mumbai spinner Shams Mulani stated that his team is "still in the contest" against Madhya Pradesh in their Ranji Trophy final match here.

"The match is heating up. We are still in the contest. A good first session and we're back in the game. If we get around 50 to 60 overs to bowl at Madhya Pradesh, we have a chance. It will be a fifth-day pitch – there will be some turn, and some balls might keep low. The final is not over yet," Mulani said after the fourth day's play here on Saturday.

Mulani, the highest wicket-taker of the tournament, underplayed the impact of his five-for in the Madhya Pradesh first innings.

"It took a long time to get the five-for – 63 overs. I'm slightly disappointed that it took so many overs.

"A personal milestone is fine, but the team needs to win," the left-arm spinner said.

IN BRIEF

WI takes marginal lead

GROS-ISLET (ST. LUCIA)

West Indies was 248 for four at tea in reply to Bangladesh's first innings total of 234 on the second day of the second and final Test on Saturday.

The scores: Bangladesh 234 in 64.2 overs (Tamim Iqbal 46, Liton Das 53, Seales 3/53, oseph 3/50) vs WI 248/4 (Kraigg Brathwaite 51, Jermaine Blackwood 40 batting, Kyle Mayers 60 batting), **at tea.**

Honour for Vijay Amritraj

LONDON

In recognition of his outstanding impact on the sport of tennis as a player, promoter, and humanitarian, India's Vijay Amritraj has been named the 2021 recipient of the Golden Achievement Award. The award was presented on Friday at a special celebration hosted in Amritraj's honour on Friday. ANI

Latham hits fifty, but England on top

NZ IN ENGLAND

REUTERS
LEEDS

England's bowlers struck three times in quick succession late on day three to take control of the final Test against New Zealand at Headingley on Saturday and stay on course for a 3-0 series sweep.

The visitors were 168 for five and led England by 137 runs when rain brought a premature halt to the day's play.

New Zealand was off to a promising start in its second innings, thanks to a fluent half-century from Tom Latham (76), but lost its way after the opener was dismissed by debutant Jamie Overton off the first ball after tea.

Earlier, Jonny Bairstow smashed a magnificent 162 while Overton fell three runs short of a century as England were dismissed for 360 in their first innings for a 31-run lead.

SCOREBOARD

New Zealand – 1st innings: 329.

England – 1st innings: Alex Lees b Boult 4, Zak Crawley b Boult 6, Ollie Pope b Boult 5, Joe Root c Blundell b Southee 5, Jonny Bairstow c Boult b Bracewell 162, Ben Stokes c Williamson b Wagner 18, Ben Foakes lbw b Wagner 0, Jamie Overton c Mitchell b Boult 97, Stuart Broad b Southee 42, Matty Potts (not out) 1, Jack Leach lbw b Southee 8; Extras (lb-11, w-1): 12; Total (in 67 overs): 360.

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-14, 3-17, 4-21, 5-55, 6-55, 7-296, 8-351, 9-351.

New Zealand bowling: Boult 22-4-104-4, Southee 23-2-100-3, Wagner 12-1-75-2, Bracewell 7-0-54-1, Mitchell 3-0-16-0.

New Zealand – 2nd innings: Tom Latham c Bairstow b Overton 76, Will Young c Pope b Potts 8, Kane Williamson c Bairstow b Potts 48, Devon Conway c Pope b Root 11, Henry Nicholls c & b Leach 7, Daryl Mitchell (batting) 4, Tom Blundell (batting) 5; Extras (b-5, lb-1, nb-2, w-1): 9; Total (for five wkts. in 51.5 overs): 168.

Fall of wicket: 1-28, 2-125, 3-152, 4-153, 5-161.

England bowling: Broad 14-2-45-0, Leach 13-5-26-1, Potts 9.5-2-20-2, Overton 9-2-34-1, Stokes 4-0-30, Root 2-0-7-0.

Shreyas, Kohli come good in the second innings

INDIA IN ENG

AGENCIES
LEICESTER

The Indian batters made 364 for seven wickets after 92 overs at the end of the third day's play on the third day of the warm-up match against Leicestershire on Saturday. Shreyas Iyer, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja scored half-centuries. Thanks to this India took an overall lead of 366 runs.

Kohli, who came in at No. 7, scored 67 with five fours and two sixes.

The scores:

Indians – 1st innings: 246 for eight decl.

Leicestershire – 1st innings: 244.

Indians – 2nd innnigs: K.S. Bharat c Bumrah b Saini 43, Shubman Gill c Bates b Saini 38, Hanuma Vihari c Bates b Davis 20, Shreyas Iyer c Evison b Nagarkoti 62, Ravindra Jadeja (batting) 56, Shardul Thakur b Nagarkoti 28, Virat Kohli c Sakande b Bumrah 67, Cheteshwar Pujara st Bates b Saikishore 22, Mohd. Siraj (batting) 1; Extras (b-16, lb-3, w-1, nb-7): 27; Total (for seven wkts. in 92 overs): 364.

Leicestershire bowling: Prasidh 4-0-30-0, Walker 15-4-48-0, Davis 14-3-40-1, Saini 16-0-55-2, Bumrah 12-2-30-1, Sakande 6-0-39-0, Nagarkoti 11-1-48-2, Saikishore 14-2-55-1.

Handy innings: Kohli made good use of the game time, scoring a half-century. • TWITTER/LEICSCCC

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: (final), Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
FIH Pro League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3 p.m., 5 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.
England vs New Zealand: 3rd Test, day 4, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 3.30 p.m.
West Indies vs Bangladesh: 2nd Test, day 3, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.
TNPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 7.30 p.m.
Ireland vs India: 1st T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 9 p.m.
Squash: World Championships, Sports 18-1 & Voot Select, 11.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Injured Madison Keys pulls out of Wimbledon

LONDON

Former Wimbledon quarterfinalist Madison Keys has withdrawn from the grasscourt Grand Slam due to an abdominal injury, the American 19th seed said on Saturday. The 27-year-old has been replaced by fellow American CoCo Vandeweghe in the draw. REUTERS

Rishi-Parikshit duo finishes runner-up

CHIANG RAI (THAILAND)

Rishi Reddy and Parikshit Somani were beaten 6-4, 6-4 by Pruchya Isarro and Thantub Suksumrarn in the doubles final of the $15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Chiang Rai, Thailand, on Saturday.

Other results: $15,000 ITF men, South Bend, USA: Semifinals: James Kent Trotter (Jpn) & Siddhant Banthia bt Colin Markes (USA) & Shuichi Sekiguchi (Jpn) 6-0, 6-4.

Kvitova claims Eastbourne crown

LONDON

Petra Kvitova sailed past former Roland Garros winner Jelena Ostapenko 6-3, 6-2 to capture the WTA 500 Eastbourne International crown on Saturday. REUTERS

India under-17 women lose 1-3 to Chile

AQUILEIA (ITALY)

The Indian under-17 women's team suffered a 1-3 loss to Chile in its second match in the four-nation tournament here on Friday. Katerine Ramos, Maitte and Ambar Rolino scored for Chile while Kajol reduced the margin. PTI

Katie Ledecky extends reign

McKeown wins maiden Worlds gold

World beater: Kaylee McKeown celebrates her first Worlds triumph. •REUTERS

SWIMMING

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BUDAPEST

Katie Ledecky won a record-breaking fifth straight 800m freestyle world title on Friday, just over an hour after Sarah Sjostrom surged to her fourth consecutive victory in the women's 50m butterfly.

Local hero Kristof Milak sparked delirium in the Duna Arena in Budapest when he grabbed the 100m butterfly gold, his second of the week.

Australian Kaylee McKeown won the women's 200m backstroke for a first world title to go with three Olympic golds.

The results: Men:100m butterfly: 1. Kristof Milak (Hun) 50.14s; 2. Naoki Mizunuma (Jpn) 50.94s; 3. Joshua Liendo (Can) 50.97s.

50m freestyle: 1. Benjamin Proud (GBr) 21.32s; 2. Michael Andrew (USA) 21.41s; 3. Maxime Grousset (Fra) 21.57s.

Women: 50m butterfly: 1. Sarah Sjostrom (Swe) 24.95s; 2. Melanie Henique (Fra) 25.31s; 3. Zhang Yufei (Chn) 25.32s.

200m backstroke: 1. Kaylee McKeown (Aus) 2:05.08s; 2. Phoebe Bacon (USA) 2:05.12s; 3. Rhyan White (USA) 2:06.96s.

800m freestyle: 1. Katie Ledecky (USA) 8:08.04s; 2. Kiah Melverton (Aus) 8:18.77s; 3. Simona Quadarella (Ita) 8:09.00s.

Mixed 100m freestyle relay: 1. Australia 3:19.38s (WR); 2. Canada 3:20.61s; 3. USA 3:21.09.

Jyothi Surekha claims two medals

Wins mixed team gold and an individual silver

ARCHERY

SPORTS BUREAU

V. Jyothi Surekha celebrated her return to the Indian compound side by claiming the mixed team gold and women's individual silver medals in the Archery World Cup Stage-3 in Paris on Saturday.

Jyothi combined with Abhishek Verma to defeat France's Sophie Dodemont and Jean Philippe Boulch 152-149 and help India win its maiden compound mixed team gold. This was Abhishek's third team gold medal (including two in men's team event) of the season and fourth overall.

After beating Sophie 147-145 in the semifinals, the second-ranked Jyothi lost to top-ranked Ella Gibson of Great Britain via shoot-off to get her first individual silver.

Jyothi matched the flawless Ella in two ends before trailing by a point.

She tied the scores 148-148 in the fifth and final end to take the sensational contest to a shoot-off.

Jyothi shot a 10, while Ella hit the bull's eye to triumph.

The results (compound):

Mixed team gold: Final: V. Jyothi Surekha & Abhishek Verma bt Sophie Dodemont & Jean Philippe Boulch (Fra) 152-149.

Women's individual: Final: Ella Gibson (GBr) tied with Jyothi 148-148. *Ella won the shoot-off*; **Semifinals:** Jyothi bt Sophie Dodemont (Fra) 147-145.

China to give Olympiad a miss

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI

China will not be taking part in the 44th Chess Olympiad to be held at Mamallapuram from July 28. Replying to a question on the sidelines of the Candidates tournament in Madrid, World No.2 and China's top player Ding Liren, said neither he nor the team will take part in the Olympiad. "I think the Chinese team will not play," said Ding.

The Chinese, however, did not give any reasons for their withdrawal, according to the AICF secretary.

Book on 1983 World Cup released

CRICKET

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

The 1983 World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev, the team's star all-rounders Mohinder Amarnath and Sandeep Patil, among others, spoke during the launch event of the *The 1983 World Cup Opus*, a coffee table book, here on Saturday, the 39th anniversary of the 1983 final.

"The first thing that comes to my mind was the last wicket, when Jimmy bowled the ball and it was adjudged lbw," Kapil in an interaction with Harsha Bhogle, with a majority of the squad members on the dais.

While Renu Sharma, the wife of late Yashpal Sharma was in attendance, Ravi Shastri and Sunil Gavaskar joined via videoconferencing.

Star night: Captain Kapil Dev and other members of the World Cup-winning team at the launch. •PTI

Belief

Mohinder Amarnath stressed that the team "believed in ourselves", while Sandeep Patil summed up the composition of the squad in a lighter vein.

"We had seven good guys and seven naughty ones. They would play during the day and we would play in the evenings," Patil said.

Former India captain Dilip Vengsarkar and former India all-rounder Roger Binny, members of the victorious squad, spoke on the sidelines of the release.

Indians strike it rich

ATHLETICS

SPORTS BUREAU

Indian athletes won seven gold medals at the Qosanov international athletics meet, a World Athletics Continental Tour (Bronze) event, in Almaty (Kazakhstan) on Saturday.

The results (Indians only):

Men: 400m: 2. Muhammed Anas (46.27s; **400m hurdles:** 2. T. Santhosh Kumar (49.97s), 3. A. Dharun (50.10); **Long jump:** 1. Muhammed Anees (8.04m); **Discus:** 1. Kirpal Singh (59.22m). **Women: 100m:** 2. Dutee Chand (11.49s, clocked a wind-assisted 11.38s in heats), 3. M.V. Jilna (11.61); **400m:** 1. Kiran Pahal (52.54s), 3. Summy (53.70); **1500m:** 1. K.M. Chanda (4:24.44s); **400m hurdles:** 1. Vithya Ramraj (56.87s); **Discus:** 1. Navjeet Kaur Dhillon (56.24m); **Shot put:** 1. Abha Khatua (16.71m), 3. Manpreet Kaur (14.24).

Karunaratne to lead

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Dimuth Karunaratne will lead Sri Lanka's 18-man squad for the two-match Test series against Australia, which starts next week.

The squad: Dimuth Karunaratne (Capt.), Pathum Nissanka, Oshada Fernando, Angelo Mathews, Kusal Mendis, Dhananjaya de Silva, Kamindu Mendis, Niroshan Dickwella, Dinesh Chandimal, Ramesh Mendis, Chamika Karunaratne, Kasun Rajitha, Vishwa Fernando, Asitha Fernando, Dilshan Madushanka, Praveen Jayawickrama, Lasith Embuldeniya and Jeffrey Vandersay.

Gold for Mihir, Aneesh and Siva

SPORTS BUREAU

Aneesh Sunilkumar Gowda, Mihir Ambre and Siva Sridhar won golds in the Singapore National swimming championships in Singapore on Saturday.

The results (Indian medallists only):

Men: 400m freestyle: 1. Aneesh Sunilkumar Gowda (3:59.74s). **100m butterfly:** 1. Mihir Ambre (54.21s). **200m backstroke:** 1. Siva Sridhar (2:05.85s). **4x200m freestyle relay:** 2. Dolphin Aquatics (7:55.92s).

Women: 200m backstroke: 3. Maana Patel (2:22.04).

It's Supernatural vs. Once You Go Black

BENGALURU: Supernatural and Once You Go Black may fight out the finish of the Colts Championship Stakes (1,600m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Sunday (June 26). There will be no false rails.

1 HASSAN PLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 4-y-o & over, 2-30 p.m.: 1. Classic Charm (4) G. Vivek 62.5, 2. Habanero (1) Kritish B 60, 3. Messala (5) Khurshad 59.5, 4. Spirit Dancer (8) Kiran Rai 59.5, 5. Infinite Spirit (2) Abhay S 58, 6. Max Mueller (6) Ashhad A 55.5, 7. Perfect Halo (3) Angad 55.5 and 8. Activated (7) P. Surya 55.

1. CLASSIC CHARM, 2. HABANERO, 3. MAX MUELLER

2 ASTRONOMIC PLATE (1,100m), rated 20 to 45, 3-00: 1. Appsara (2) Nikhil N 60.5, 2. Domina (8) Gaurav S 58, 3. Ultimate Striker (5) G. Vivek 56, 4. Mount View (1) Sandesh 55.5, 5. Lady Supremos (3) Vinod Shinde 54, 6. Osiris (6) Arvind K 54, 7. Mr Humble (4) P. Surya 53, 8. Anne Boleyn (7) Akshay K 52.5 and 9. Dallas Drifter (9) Khurshad 52.5.

1. MOUNT VIEW, 2. ANNE BOLEYN, 3. DOMINA

3 KARNATAKA SUB-AREA TROPHY (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-30: 1. Fortunate Son (4) N.S. Parmar 56, 2. King Pompous (9) Nikhil N 56, 3. Prague (1) Trevor 56, 4. Ripple N Storm (8) Dhanu S 56, 5. Roudy (10) P.S. Chouhan 56, 6. Sadler's Legacy (3) Yash 56, 7. Twilight Tornado (5) J.H. Arul 56, 8. Karyna (2) Bhawani S 54.5, 9. Klimt (7) Sandesh 54.5, 10. Mirra (6) Akshay K 54.5 and 11. Speaking Of Love (11) Kiran N 54.5.

1. PRAGUE, 2. SADLER'S LEGACY, 3. FORTUNATE SON

4 COLTS CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES (1,600m), 3-y-o Colts & Geldings (Terms), 4-00: 1. All Attraction (11) C.S. Jodha 56, 2. Arthur (2) A. Imran 56, 3. Cyrenius (9) Sandesh 56, 4. King Louis (1) P.S. Chouhan 56, 5. Last Wish (3) Dhanu S 56, 6. Leonardo (6) Akshay K 56, 7. Mojito (7) N.S. Parmar 56, 8. Once You Go Black (4) Suraj 56, 9. Prince O' War (8) P.P. Dhebe 56, 10. Ravishing Form (10) R Oliver 56 and 11. Supernatural (5) Trevor 56.

1. SUPERNATURAL, 2. ONCE YOU GO BLACK, 3. RAVISHING FORM

5 JUNE PLATE (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over, 4-30: 1. Colonel Harty (1) Angad 62.5, 2. Ascoval (6) Trevor 61.5, 3. Aztec Queen (7) Arvind K 60, 4. Kvasir (4) Siddaraju 56.5, 5. Musterion (8) Vishal B 53, 6. The Strength (2) Ajeet K 52.5, 7. Aceros (9) Vinod Shinde 51.5, 8. Lagopus (3) P. Surya 51.5 and 9. Anakin (5) Abhay S 50.5.

1. ASCOVAL, 2. THE STRENGTH, 3. COLONEL HERTY

6 PARSIANA PLATE (1,800m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Southern Dynasty (6) C.S. Jodha 62, 2. Muirfield (3) S. John 60, 3. Rhapsody In Green (2) T.S. Jodha 59, 4. Only You (1) Sandesh 58.5, 5. Shubankar (5) Akshay K 57 and 6. Super Ruffian (4) Dhanu S 61.

1. ONLY YOU, 2. RHAPSODY IN GREEN

7 MAURITIUS PEARL PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-30: 1. Del Mar (2) Ashhad A 61.5, 2. Forseti (1) Trevor 58, 3. Knotty In Blue (10) S. Shareef 57.5, 4. Striking Memory (7) S. Saqlain 56.5, 5. Unique Style (9) Vishal B 56, 6. Princess Jasmine (4) Darshan 55.5, 7. Twilight Fame (6) Rajesh K 54, 8. Amazonite (5) S. Mubarak 53, 9. Sea Blush (2) P. Surya 51 and 10. Tiger Returns (8) Tousif K 50.5.

1. FORSETI, 2. DEL MAR, 3. TWILIGHT FAME

Day's best: **PRAGUE**

Double: **MOUNT VIEW – FORSETI**

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i); 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Zuccarelli claims Chief Justice's Cup

BENGALURU: P. Shroff-trained Zuccarelli (Trevor up) won the Chief Justice's Cup, the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (June 25). The winner is owned by Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP rep by. Mr. D.R. Thacker, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala and Mr. A.S. Narielwala.

1. XISCA PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 00 to 25: **ALTAMONTE** (Darshan) 1, Handsome Rocky (Rajesh K) 2, Fierce Fighter (T.S. Jodha) 3 and Jersey Legend (Salman K) 4. 1, 3-1/2 and Lnk. 1m, 29.67s. ₹29 (w), 14, 12 and 20 (p), SHP: 30, THP: 44, FP: 80, Q: 40, Trinella: 214 and 160, Exacta: 1,240 and 683. Favourite: Handsome Rocky. Owner and trainer: Mr. S. Inayathulla.

2. ADLER PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over: **ELUSIVE GIRL** (Arshad) 1, Wonder Wench (Rayan) 2, Capri Girl (Akshay K) 3 and Stunning Beauty (Arvind K) 4. 2, 3/4 and Lnk. 1m, 29.14s. ₹54 (w), 17, 14 and 16 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 42, FP: 222, Q: 99, Trinella: 1,263 and 699, Exacta: 84,262. Favourite: Wonder Wench. Owner Mr. Aziz A. Jaffer. Trainer: Azhar Ali.

3. V.T. VELU MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600m), rated 40 to 65: **ASHWA YUDHVIR** (Yash) 1, Capable (Siddaraju) 2, Grey Channel (Arshad) 3 and Vanguard (P.P. Dhebe) 4. 2-1/4, Nk and 5-3/4. 1m, 40.67s. ₹45 (w), 15, 17 and 34 (p), SHP: 58, THP: 61, FP: 684, Q: 500, Trinella: 5,563 and 1,651, Exacta: 75,496 and 32,355. Favourite: Etosha. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh Chouhan. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

4. CHIEF JUSTICE'S CUP (1,800m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms): **ZUCCARELLI** (Trevor) 1, Theon (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Giant Star (Yash) 3 and Chopin (R Oliver) 4. Shd, 9 and 8. 1m, 52.43s. ₹13 (w), 13 and 15 (p), SHP: 21, THP: 27, FP: 25, Q: 25, Trinella: 132 and 71, Exacta: 413 and 176. Favourite: Zuccarelli. Owners: Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP rep by. Mr. D.R. Thacker, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala and Mr. A.S. Narielwala. Trainer: P. Shroff.

5. EVERYNSKY PLATE (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **FORTUNATUS** (Sandesh) 1, Queenstown (Dashrath S) 2, Roman Power (Trevor) 3 and Queen Envied (Anjar) 4. 3-3/4, Snk and 1-3/4. 1m, 27.68s. ₹16 (w), 10, 15 and 18 (p), SHP: 29. THP: 40, FP: 33, Q: 36, Trinella: 84 and 63, Exacta: 275 and 157. Favourite: Fortunatus. Owners: Mr. C. Aryama Sundaram, Mr. P.J. Vazifdar & Mr. M. Rishad. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

6. ADLER PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over: **IN A BREEZE** (Likith) 1, Divine Ray (R Oliver) 2, Own Legacy (Trevor) 3 and Eco Friendly (Ajeet K) 4. 2-1/4, 2-1/4 and 4-3/4. 1m, 27.49s. ₹86 (w), 19, 14 and 12 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 46, FP: 358, Q: 112, Trinella: 578 and 316, Exacta: 5,346 and 3,723. Favourite: Divine Ray. Owners: Hyperion Bloodstock Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr & Mrs. Farouq K. Rattonsey, Mr. Sameer F. Rattonsey and Mr. Zaheer F. Rattonsey. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

7. XISCA PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 00 to 25: **EXTRAORDINARY** (Arvind K) 1, Toronero (L.A. Rozario) 2, Able One (Arshad) 3 and Mark One (Ajinkya) 4. 3-3/4, 1-1/4 and 3-3/4. 1m, 28.73s. ₹34 (w), 12, 34 and 16 (p), SHP: 100, THP: 43, FP: 752, Q: 793, Trinella: 2,488 and 439, Exacta: 6,021 and 2,796. Favourite: Mark One. Owner: Mr. C.V. Prasad Rao. Trainer: Sharat Kumar.

Jackpot: ₹19,285 (four tkts.); Runner-up: 580 (57 tkts.); Treble (i): 1,125 (10 tkts.); (ii): 2,043 (10 tkts.).